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THE ROUNDABOUT ROAD TO REDEMPTION

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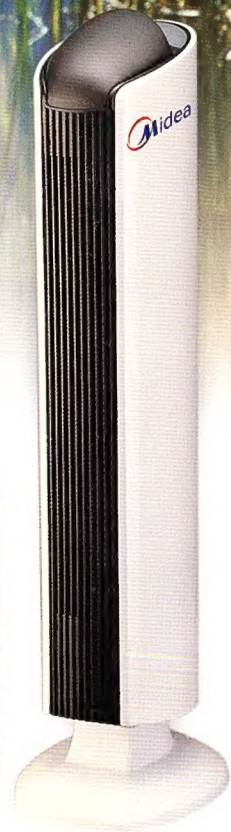
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FOCUS ON XINJIANG

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, all providing tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem embedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak, the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik,

Xibe, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique and colourful culture.



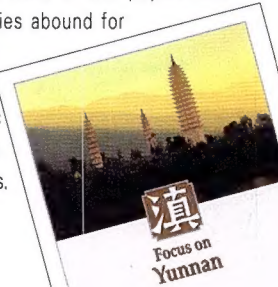
FOCUS ON SHAANXI

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



FOCUS ON YUNNAN

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate all year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-la, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.



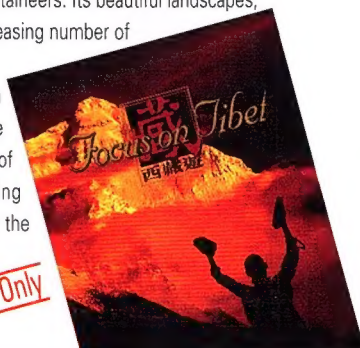
The Call of China's West

FOCUS ON TIBET

The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is a land of mystery for tourists, a land of wonders for explorers, a land of purity for Buddhists, and the ultimate challenge for mountaineers. Its beautiful landscapes, unique geographical features and rich cultural legacy continue to attract an increasing number of visitors.

The countless attractions of Tibet make it impossible to include them all in one book. This photographic publication offers an introduction to some of the Region's most celebrated features: the Potala Palace and its precious collection of cultural relics; the Jokhang Temple with strings of worshippers prostrating themselves before it; the Shoton Festival and the Sunning of Buddha ceremony; the ruins of the mystical Guge Kingdom; and the amazing Qiangtang Grassland....

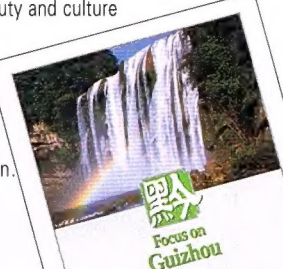
At the same time, *Focus on Tibet* outlines the six major routes to Tibet and the many stunning landscapes found along the way.



Paperback Only

FOCUS ON GUIZHOU

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.



FOCUS ON GUANGXI

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the diverse traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



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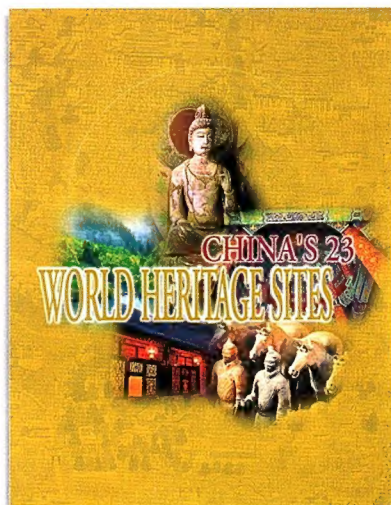
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China's 23 World Heritage Sites



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Article and Photos by Xie Guanghui

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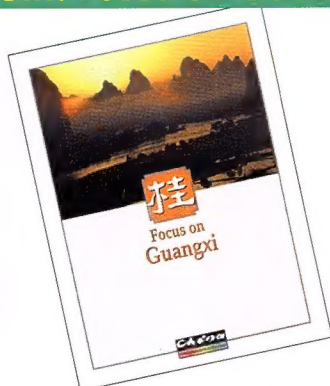
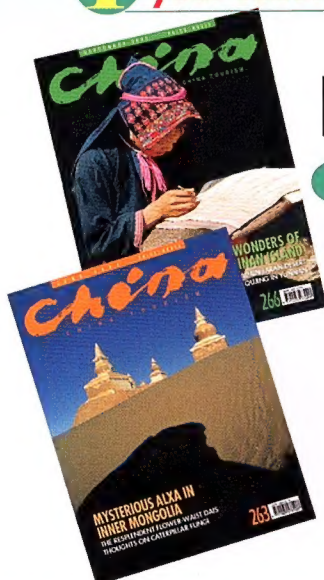
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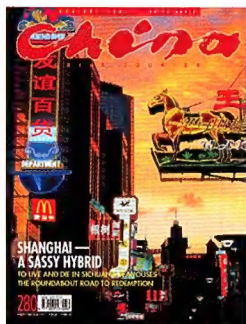
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Article by Hang Yanhong Photos by Zheng Yunfeng

Zheng is a tough man who has the tenderest heart. Combining iron-will and sensibility, perhaps he has the best gifts for a photographer.

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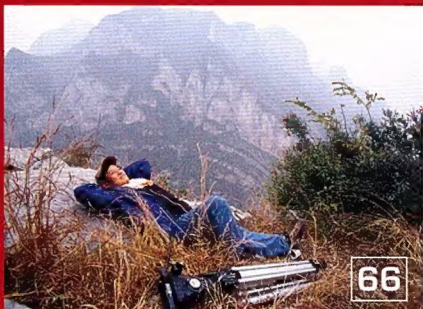
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FROM THE EDITOR

Sassy Shanghai

Shanghai packages its hybridism well.

They keep all their antique buildings on the west bank of Huangpu River, while clustering all their modern skyscrapers on the other bank, and the contrast is stunning.

Shanghai is determined to set itself apart from the rest of the country as a world-class metropolis. Shanghainese pride themselves as the "Paris of Asia" and nickname its shopping boulevard as the 5th Avenue, and they set their eyes on London, New York and Paris, imitating their every moves.

On the other hand, they understand the importance of boasting its unique landmarks, such as the Shikumen (the old stone houses built after the Opium War). They tried so hard to preserve them that they even incorporate one in their gigantic entertainment complex, Xintiandi.

Shanghai is the earliest hybridized city of China, and it is a very sassy one indeed.

A hybrid city like shanghai will shuttle anyone between the past and present, as if stepping into a time machine. (Photo by Chen Haiwen)

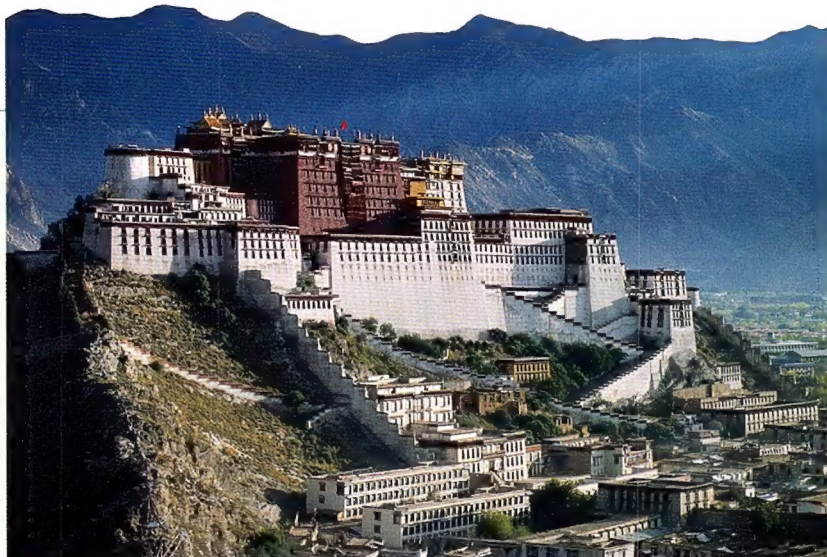


Patching up the Potala Wall

A renovation project to repair a collapsed wall at the famed Potala Palace in Tibet finally started in September. This 1,300-year-old red-and-white palace, former office compound of Tibetan rulers, also was the residence of Tibetan religious leaders — the Dalai Lamas — since the 17th century. It has been listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site since 1994.

Part of the front wall at the **Potala Palace collapsed two years ago after rain water**

caused severe erosion at the site. A crack that was found in the wall is some 10 m wide and 20 m. Underground drainage systems at the wall also badly need to be upgraded. The project will cost more than 3 million yuan (US\$361,000).



Tougher Rules for Travel Agencies

Foreseeing that China will become the fourth-largest tourism export country by 2020, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industry and Commerce, as well as the Beijing tourism authorities, vowed to further regulate the cross-border travel market for local residents. The new proposed travel contract gives priority to customer's right.

For example, according to previous regulations, travel agencies refunded 10 percent of the tour fees to consumers when violating the treaty, but travellers had to pay 30 to 100 percent for the same violation; the new unified contract stipulates equal responsibility for agencies and travelers for violating the agreement. The final version of the special contract will be released six months after the trial implementation period.

The bureau also vowed to toughen punishment for cheating and to penalize agencies that refuse to sign contracts with consumers. Meanwhile, **the tourism authorities will adopt a credit system** for travel agencies and will regularly publish the credit condition of travel agencies.



Millions Spent on Making the Dead Emperors Comfortable

A massive renovation project on the ruined imperial tombs, Ming's Thirteen Tombs, that was built about six hundred years ago (Ming Dynasty 1368-1644 A.D.) started last month.

Located in a 40 km² area north of downtown Beijing, this group of mausoleums holds the remains of 13 emperors, 23 empresses, many imperial concubines, princes, princesses, and numerous imperial slaves. Ming's Thirteen Tombs was just added to the World Heritage List this July by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). So far, only three of the tombs are open to the public. The renovation would cost 38 million yuan (US\$4.6 million), and the work is expected to be completed by October 2004.

China's Aviation Transportation Turnover Ranks Fifth

China's overall aviation transportation turnover ranked fifth in the world, and the passenger turnover ranked fourth. At the end of last year, China opened 1,176 regular air routes, including 1,015 domestic and 161 international ones, covering over 1.6 million km. Statistics show that China's aviation turnover increased 54 times compared with the figure in 1978. **The growth speed was 3.4 times that of the global aviation industry** in the same period.

Needless to say, China is embracing all these traffic with a smile.

Beijing Plans A Second International Airport

The authorities have just approved a huge plan to build another international airport for the capital in 2010, but the location and design scheme of the project have yet to be decided. The Beijing City has been ruled out as a venue for the new airport, as the capital has mountains to its west and north, and no suitable space for such a mammoth project elsewhere in the city. Designers will probably locate an ideal site in neighboring Hebei Province.

The Capital International Airport, operational since 1959, has come under mounting pressure from surging air traffic demand in recent years. The number of passengers has increased by 3 million annually.

However, **in the month when the 2008 Olympic Games is held in China, the peak traffic volume is projected to hit 5.56 million passengers**, almost reaching the monthly total anticipated for 2015. Therefore, Beijing's current airport will undergo massive expansion to ready itself for the extra demand created by the 2008 Olympic Games.



Shanghai Says NO to Skyscrapers

The Shanghai Municipal People's Congress is modifying the city's urban-planning regulations to limit the number of skyscrapers. They are setting some long-term goals for a green city.

Tall buildings have been mushrooming as a result of the renovation of old urban areas, particularly in the last five years. At the end of last year, there were about five thousand tall buildings (of eight floors or more) in the city; however, by the end of June this year, another two thousand buildings were either under construction or in the planning stage.

The congestion of tall buildings in the limited central area has had a negative effect on the city. First of all, many historical buildings in old urban areas have been demolished to make room for modern tall buildings. Secondly, the concentration of tall buildings blocks the wind and



the view. Thirdly, they make the city more vulnerable to natural disasters. And most importantly, **excessive construction of skyscrapers has also been identified as contributing 30% to the city's subsidence since 1990.**

The financial zone, where it has the highest concentration of skyscrapers, is sinking by between 12 and 15 mm a year and the trend does not seem to be slowing.

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Summer Palace with a New Face

Beijing: Beijing's famous tourist draw card, the imperial "Summer Palace", is adding a new beauty spot to its list of attractions. Or, to be more exact, it's adding an old one. Destroyed by the invading Anglo-French troops in 1860, the idyllic "Picture of Weaving and Plowing" scenic spot is re-opening to the public in its full former glory, after a comprehensive restoration. Restoration began in 1998 and cost nearly 100 million yuan, or around 12 million US dollars.

The "Picture of Weaving and Plowing" scenic area covers 25 ha, the original idea of the scenic spot was inspired by the ancient fairy tale of "The Weaving Maid and the Cowherd". The weaving maid, a goddess from heaven, lived a quiet life with her cowherd husband on earth, weaving clothes while her husband did farm work. Her grandfather, the emperor of heaven, had forbade the goddess to marry an earthly mortal, and eventually forced her back to heaven, separating the two lovers by the milky way.



Savor the Olive

Yunnan: Ganlanba (Olive Dam), a complex of several villages in Yunnan Province (south western China), is shaped like an olive and abounds in evergreen plants; hence its name. Viewed from the air, the villages are connected to one another and covered with green trees, while Buddhist pagodas and bamboo tower houses stand out amidst the lush green.

Ganlanba attracts tourists with its tropical scenery. The hot and rainy climate brings Ganlanba abundant tropical fruits and bamboo groves.

The villages are filled with Myanmar-styled Buddhist temples and pagodas, and it is common to see monks in yellow cassocks.

The bamboo houses usually have two stories and are surrounded by spacious courtyards. Local people believe this particular type of structure can help promote air circulation.



Airbus China

Travel: Despite a downturn in the international market, European-based aircraft powerhouse, Airbus, has expressed full confidence in China's burgeoning aviation industry and is optimistic about the prospects for its huge double-decker A380 within the country.

Airbus China is looking forward to see A380s, painted with the colors of Chinese airlines, being used during the Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai World Expo. Although the airline industry has been struggling for some time now, Airbus China believes that airbuses can lower the operational costs, while offering high standards for passengers and producing less pollution.

Airbus launched the A380, which can carry 555 passengers, in December 2000. It will enter service in 2006.

Anonymous Park of Silica Wood

Yanqing: Beijing Yanqing National Geological Park of Silica Woods remains relatively anonymous to tourists since its opening a year ago. The name of the park sounds so academic that people do not see it as an ideal travel destination.

Located 100 km north of Beijing, the major attraction of the park is its unique geological terrain and silica wood, which consists of well-preserved fossils of trees. The park boasts the largest silica wood of its kind in northern China, nestling on two sedimentary layers dating back to the Middle and Proterozoic Era.

The park extends 26 km from east to west and 8 km from south to north. It is hard for one to visit most of the spots within one day. A two-day stay would be more suitable if you wish to visit all 25 sites.

There are fewer restrictions on water-based activities and people are welcome to go yachting and fishing in the reservoir.

How to get there: Take bus 919 from Deshengmen to Yanqing County and then take a local bus to the town. If you are driving, start along Badaling Expressway and take the Yanqing exit, located near the end of the expressway. Continue to drive about 30km to the northeast and you will arrive at the western entrance of the park.



Wild Camp

Yanlu Yudu is a secret get-away for people in Beijing. It is an ideal camping destination thanks to its tranquil surroundings, clean lake water and relatively convenient transportation options.

Yudu Mountain, known as northern China's paradise of wild plants and animals, covers an area of 100 km², and has an altitude up to 1,600 m.

One of the exciting places in the area is its 120,000 m² lake. Strange peaks, springs, waterfalls, wild flowers, grasslands and thick forest transform the area into a wonderland.

There is a mountain admission fee of 60 yuan (US\$7). The tour bus will take you to the main gate of the site. You can also hike in the mountain or around the lake. To get there, take bus 919 at Deshengmen to Yanqing town and then change to a taxi to the site. Taxi fees are about 15 yuan (US\$1.80). You can also change to bus 920 at Yanqing to Shanrongmu Station for a cost of 2 yuan (24 US cents). If you drive there, be sure to bring a map along.

Kung Fu Villages

Cangxian This is no ordinary village, just talk to any farmer you come across, and you could find that he or she is a martial arts expert. Kung Fu, or martial arts, is one of Cangxian's (240 km south of Beijing) most enduring legacies. Nowhere in China is there such a long tradition and passion for Kung Fu, for Cangxian is where all the exiled rebels gathered in the past.

However, the people of Cangxian have different ideas about martial arts, differing from those used in the adventures of Jackie Chan or Jet Li. Their styles and movements focus on body-building, defence and combat.

In 2000, the local government asked all the primary schools to include martial arts in their sports curriculum, and hired the local experts to teach the subject.

A collaborative education program with the Martial Arts Department of Beijing Sports University was launched last year, and the university will send its fourth-year students to teach in the local school every year.



The Hukou Waterfall

Spring In the Yellow River basin, there is a tourist resort that visitors should not miss. That is the Hukou Waterfall, the second largest waterfall in China.

The Yellow River runs all the way across three provinces where it suddenly finds its way through a narrow valley guarded by flocks of flourishing forests on both sides. The riverbed of the Yellow River narrows from 300 m to 50 m, turning the tranquil river into a turbulent one.

It is this narrow path that makes Hukou Waterfall's (Shanxi Province, northern China) popularity. The water splashes on the rocks, causing countless waterbeads and foam, then water fumes from which visitors may notice a colourful rainbow by chance. The water fumes curl upwards, turning from yellow to grey, grey to blue. Local residents give such phenomenon an exact metaphor, calling it "smoke from river".

Ticket: 36 yuan (US\$4.5) Transportation: Arrive Linfen City of Shanxi Province by train first, then take a long-distance bus to Shaanxi Province's Yan'an or Yichuan direction at next morning. It will takes 6 hours to Hukou Waterfall. Tourist can take lodging at Jixian County, which is 1.5 hours driving far from Hukou Waterfall.



Sunset in Old Beijing

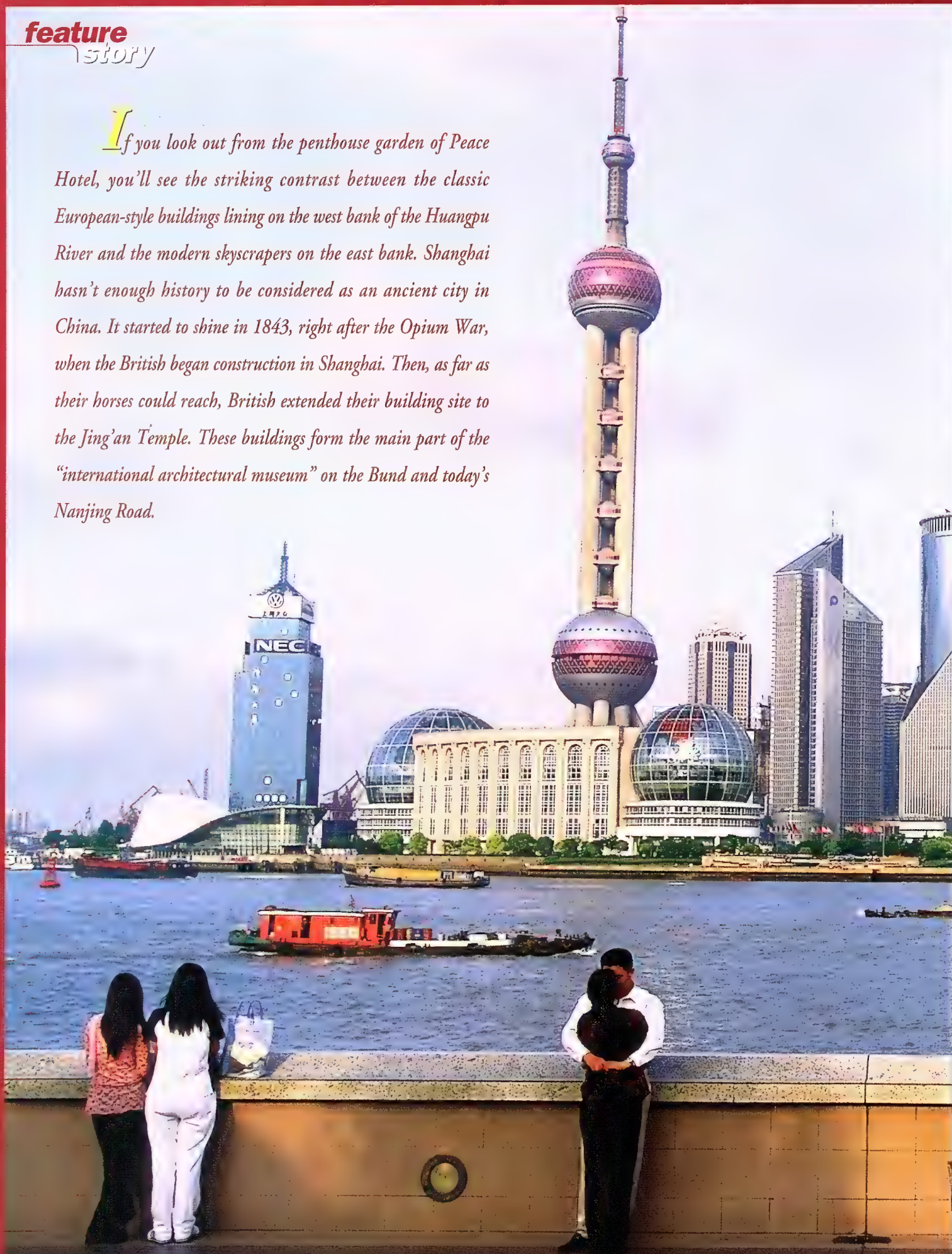
Spring The well-known lake, Shichahai, is situated in the central part of old Beijing. It used to be part of the Grand Canal 700 years ago and is now surrounded by the old palaces of ministers, temples, as well as old residences of celebrities.

Till the end of late autumn, there is this "Sunset Boat Tour". Visitors can take the boat at the "Lotus Market", which is at the opposite side of the North Gate of the Beihai Park. Not only can visitors enjoy tea and local snacks on the boat, but they can also get a panoramic view of the local people's daily life, the local customs and flavor from the banks.

Boat Tour Transportation: take the bus 823, 801, 701, 111, 13, and get off at the back door of Beihai. Open Time: 19:00-22:00 Price: 400 yuan (US\$50) per boat (including music) 300 yuan (US\$37) per boat (without music).



If you look out from the penthouse garden of Peace Hotel, you'll see the striking contrast between the classic European-style buildings lining on the west bank of the Huangpu River and the modern skyscrapers on the east bank. Shanghai hasn't enough history to be considered as an ancient city in China. It started to shine in 1843, right after the Opium War, when the British began construction in Shanghai. Then, as far as their horses could reach, British extended their building site to the Jing'an Temple. These buildings form the main part of the "international architectural museum" on the Bund and today's Nanjing Road.



The Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower have become the landmark of Shanghai.

Shanghai A Sassy Hybrid

Photos and article by Xie Guanghui
Translated by Gloria Shang



In 1992, the program to develop the Pudong (East of Huangpu River) New District was launched, and it attracted many international real estate corporations, including the Hong Kong based Hung Kei, Cheong Kong, Hutchison, Sun Hung Kai and New World. In the following years, skyscrapers sprung up in Pudong like bamboo shoots growing after rain. Meanwhile, multinational companies such as the General Electric, Volkswagen, Coca Cola, McDonald's, and AIA are being developed in Pudong New Development District. As the global economy still lingers in the trough, Shanghai continues to maintain a double-digit growth, which is unmatched by any other city in the world.



The interior of Jinmao Tower

© Jinmao Tower, the Highest Building in China

The 88-storey Jinmao Tower is 420.5 m tall, and it stands right in the center of the Lujiazui Financial and Business Zone. It is by far the tallest building in China and the third tallest in the world. Its top floor offers a bird's-eye panorama of Shanghai, and the hallway is decorated with T-shirts, shoes and basketball used and signed by Yao Ming, China's most famous NBA player.



The hallway at the Jinmao Tower



The Fifth Avenue of China — Huaihai Road Central

© Huaihai Road Central, High Fashion Centre

Huaihai Road Central is often referred as the Fifth Avenue, Champs Elysees or Ginza of Shanghai. On this 2.2 km street, you can find the high-end shops showing the latest fashions. It sets the trends in Shanghai.



The super shopping mall at Xintiandi (New World)

© Xintiandi, Symbol of Modernity

Xintiandi (New World) is a nightclub in the old residential area. It has managed to become all things to all people. It attracts both the young and old generation. The young finds it fashionable and the older folk finds it nostalgic. Foreign visitors come here because it symbolizes China while the Chinese say its foreign atmosphere is exotic.



The inner corner of the New World

© Nostalgic Bar: 1931

The 1931 bar was the forerunner among other nostalgia bars in Shanghai. Situated on Maoming Road, it has only one room, just enough for six or seven tables. Because of the owner's painstaking effort at collecting and displaying artifacts and memories of the old Shanghai, it has become extremely popular among foreigners.



The booming economy has created a middle class with extraordinary purchasing power. In the first half of 2003, 15 Bentleys, luxury limousines especially prepared for the likes of the British royal family, were sold in Shanghai, including the new Mulliner 728, first shown at the Shanghai car expo in April, which is priced at around US \$1.2 million. Shanghai has the highest sales of Bentleys in the Asia Pacific. Likewise, the state-of-the-art shopping centers on Huadhui Road Central, such as Times Square, Hong Kong Plaza, New World Tower and Central Plaza are just as fancy.

Xintiaundi (New World) is like a magnet to the young professionals and the in-crowd. Its huge success makes the neighboring cities, such as Hong Kong, green with envy.

© Neon Lights on Nanjing Road

The pedestrian street on Nanjing Road is famed as China's leading commercial street. With many well-known department stores, it is one of the busiest business areas in Shanghai. Its neon lights, of course, form a brilliant night-scenery.

© Traffic Jams Are Everywhere

Traffic jams are a constant nightmare in this metropolis of 15 million people. Cars, buses, taxis and trucks are all crawling at snail's speed during rush hour everywhere; even the overpass highway (Yan'an Road) cannot escape from the traffic problems.



◎ The Next NBA To-Be

The Shikumen, or the old stone houses, accounts for 60% of the old residences in Shanghai. In recent years, the majority of the families living in these old houses have moved to new residential areas. The NBA basketball star, Yao Ming, is an icon to the youngsters in Shanghai, and his stardom has triggered a newfound passion for basketball in the city.



◎ From Racecourse to People's Park

The People's Park is used to be a racecourse until 1951. The southern section of the park is developed into the People's Square, and it is surrounded by some eye-catching buildings such as the Shanghai Museum, Shanghai Art Gallery and the Exhibition Hall of Shanghai City Planning.

◎ Brilliant Murals in the Former HSBC

The former headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. was built on the Bund in 1923. Now housing the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPDB), it remains the grandest European building on the Huangpu River bank. On the ceiling of its lobby are eight striking murals that are made of coloured mosaics, depicting the city landscapes of Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, Bangkok and Calcutta. These murals were covered up by yellow paint in 1955 and revealed in 1998 when the SPDB redecorated the interior of the building.



◎ Modeling Competition

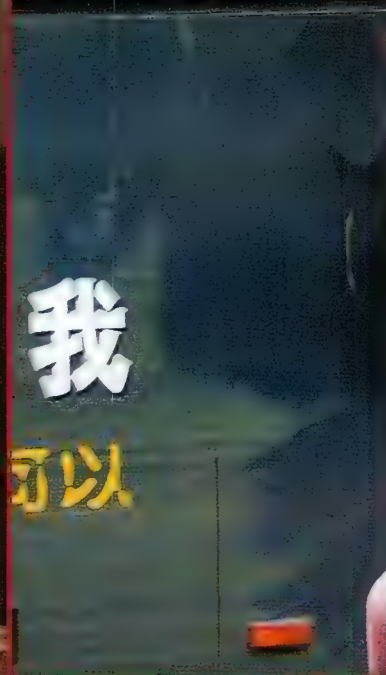
The fast economic growth has opened up a new industry — modeling. Many young beauties are attracted to the industry not only for the money, but also for its fame and glory.



Wedding gown model



Larger-than-life billboard on Huaihai Road



◎ Living within the Forest of Billboards

The Shanghainese are one of the most commercialized global citizens, and don't be surprised to find yourself lost in the sea of advertisements.

◎ Women — the Soul of Huaihai Road

There is a popular quote in Shanghai, "while tourists are looking for discounts on Nanjing Road, the local Shanghainese are shopping on the Huaihai Road". Over 400 high-end shops on Huaihai Road Central carry all sorts of brand-name products, and this is the shopping heaven for many young women.



Fashionable women can be seen on every street of Shanghai



The advertisement on bus



© Make-up on the Go

Cosmetics companies have long preyed on Shanghainese girls who are into putting their best faces forward. Many professional make-up artists are making huge sales on the streets.

© Generation Y

Since the Jianianhua Amusement Park opened this summer, it has become the first choice for many young people in search of the modern life style. They love the strong-beat music, the thrilling games and cutting edge designs.

Happy Hours at the Xintiandi

When Xintiandi (New World) reopened after three years of renovation, it became the newest urban tourist attraction. Its trade secret? Multicultural designing imbued with the city's historical and cultural legacies. The black front gate of this entertainment center is Baroque style, but once you step inside, the atmosphere is totally changed. Black brick paves the pathway, contrasting with the red and gray brick walls. The hallway will lead you to the mix-and-match furnishings such as European-style fireplace, lofty sofa, Chinese-style antique tables and chairs.



The old residences (Shikumen) were converted into a multifunctional dining, retail and entertainment center.

New products that draws many customers.

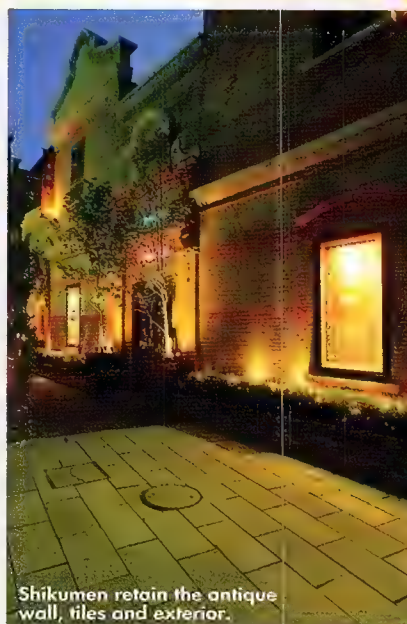
Of course, a cultural hotchpotch like Xintiandi cannot be without some eminent international cuisines. It gathers the fine cooking of French, Chinese, British, Brazilian, German, Italian, American and Japanese. There are restaurants on the balconies, coffee shops on the sidewalks, and barbecue shops around the corners. On top of that, it has specialty restaurant like the Star East, which is similar to Planet Hollywood, except that it highlights HK superstars like Jacky Chan, rather than the Hollywood celebrities. The Xintiandi is also a great hangout for night owls, but it usually fills up pretty early, and you can hardly get a table after 10pm.

Consumerism

Xintiandi Plaza is divided into the North and South Blocks. In the north, preserved Shikumen set a nostalgic tone, contrasting with the modern south. Full of glass screens, the South Block is a modern shopping and entertainment complex featuring classy boutiques, accessory shops, a movie cinema, a one-stop fitness center and a series of international restaurants. This is the dreamland where the locals and tourists who long to experience Shanghai's glorious past and its modern chic.

A Fusion of Old Residences and Modern Shops

Shanghai became a port after the Opium War. Britain, the United States, France, Japan and Germany flocked here to develop their own communities. In the mid-19th century, the local peasants' uprising drove all the wealthy merchants in the neighboring provinces to the foreign concessions of Shanghai for shelters. Seeing this as a golden business opportunity, authorities in the concessions developed a series of real estates



Shikumen retain the antique wall, tiles and exterior.

to meet the demand. They invited European architects to design houses that combined the western exterior and the traditional Chinese interior, with courtyards, living room and guest rooms. They even built a granite gateway with heavy black wooden door-leaves for each house as an extra safety feature. In the following decades, more than 9,000 lanes with these residences were developed and they made up about sixty percent of the residential houses in Shanghai. These houses are called Shikumen.

By the 1990s, however, each of these old houses was occupied by several families. The mailboxes and milk boxes for all the families in a house could cover up the black door-leaf completely. As there were different families living on each floor, including the attic, it was common to see several cooking stoves crowded in a narrow kitchen. What's more, each family had their own shower nozzle. Since Shikumen could no longer cope with Shanghai's housing demand, preserving such invaluable heritages posed a dilemma for the government.

Xintiandi decided to blaze a new trail. They invited architects from the United States, Singapore and Shanghai Tongji University to solve the problem. The first problem was deciding which house in the cluster should be removed. In order to stay true to its original design, they found the original blue prints drawn by the French architect.

The experts decided to preserve the external brick walls of Shikumen. The company imported an expensive water-proof solution from Germany and injected it into the brick crevices. For the roofs, they first laid two layers of materials for water and heat proofing, and then put back the old tiles that had been injected with the water-proofing solution.

Finally, after three years of renovation, Xintiandi was established with two blocks separated by Xingye Road. The North Block has retained most of the Shikumen, while new buildings make up the majority in the South Block. A pedestrian street links the two parts. The renovated cluster of homes demonstrates the charming contrast between the old and new, blending Western and Chinese cultures, as well as historical and cultural differences.



on the sidewalk

Happy Hours at the Xitiandi



Music concert at the "ARK Bar"

Xintiandi has the priciest bars in Shanghai. The sale price of cocktail can be up to ten times the marginal cost. A bottle of 750 ml wine and a jar of 1,250 ml Coke cost only about 130 yuan, but they can make about 40 glasses of the cocktail, which the bar is charging 40 yuan each. Needless to say, the imported wines are even more expensive. Still, the bar attracts customers like honey to flies. The young people are all in love with its atmosphere.





Live band performance



A band on stage at Star East



A high class restaurant



Outdoor pubs are extremely busy at night.

Happy Hours at the Xitiandi



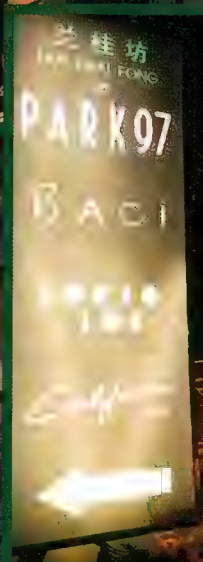
A street scene



Teahouses on Henshan Road



Henshan Road becomes the hottest hangout for young adults.



Party World and the pubs

Hengshan Road — Shanghai's First Bar Street

Like Xintiandi, there are many bars on Hengshan Road. I randomly picked one that had only a few customers; a man behind the counter greeted me. I ordered a glass of beer and sat down to chat with him. He told me about the first time he arrived in Shanghai three years ago. "Xintiandi was not established at that time," he said, "and Hengshan Road was the busiest street and it was jam packed everyday around 10 p.m. All the bars would be full and a lot of people were waiting in line. So a friend from Taiwan and I chose this place to open our business. The opening of Xintiandi seriously affected businesses on Hengshan and Julu roads, making our volume of sales drop by two-thirds." Too bad that the Shanghainese are so choosy. Still, there are people who enjoy quietness. Mr. Zhang who sat at the next table was a frequent visitor at the bar. He told me that he would rather stay in tranquil surroundings, and Xintiandi was too alien and radical for him. Bars such as ARK were too noisy. He didn't enjoy hearing pop songs from Hong Kong and Taiwan in bars, instead, he would like soft foreign

of Shanghai in the 1930s and 1940s adorned on the walls. The mansion is located at the exit of Dongping Road, and it has been transformed into a restaurant where diners can enjoy their privacy in small rooms, which formerly served as bedrooms or music rooms.

Nostalgia at the 1931 Bar

When I reached the cross of Maoming South and Fuxing Roads, I heard some loud music. Most of the bars here were only about one-third full, and there were not many parked cars on the street. In Judy's Too and Blues & Jazz, there were more customers, but still not full, and the outdoor tables remained empty. Amber was a bar for youngsters and its business had been thriving since it opened a year ago. Newton, its owner, was a born party animal who always manages to find strange ideas every week, such as make-up party, pyjama party, barbecue party... Most of its customers were young foreigners working in Shanghai.

Not only is the 1931 Bar the oldest bar on Maoming Road South,

but it is also the forerunner of nostalgia bars in Shanghai. Once I stepped inside, I heard the voice of Zhou Xuan, a star singer of old Shanghai. The bar was small, with only six or seven tables, but it had many collective items from the former years, including old calendars, car plates, phonograph, first-generation audio system, black records, colourless kerosene lamps and telephones... All these items looked old and out-dated, but 70 years ago, they were the first foreign utilities used in Shanghai.

The Camp of Nightlife

The Ruijin Hotel has a back door on Maoming Road South. Since 1996, the hotel has opened several restaurants, including Face, Colours and Xiaonanguo (Little South State). Each restaurant has its unique design and appeal, for instance, Colours has part of its balcony extended to the center of the lake.

Qiangui Party World is one of the most popular karaoke entertainment centers. After enjoying a good singing session here, customers usually walk to Park 97, a place offering food and entertainment. Another place to go at Fuxing Park is Lan Kwai Fong, where most of the visitors are Chinese, as the foreigners are now moving elsewhere. As the bars are located close together, those who love nightlife can visit several in one evening.

music. For the busy professionals and businesspeople, peace and quietness are more important.

A Private Garden

The exterior of this restaurant still maintains its look of a private house. This is Xi Family Garden, a former residence of the president of the Central Bank of old China. Its old-fashioned lobby has many photos

A Private Garden on Hengshan Road

Happy Hours at the Xitiandi

● Bar Life in Shanghai ●

Qianmen It offers both popular music and traditional Chinese music. Musicians are all dressed in Chinese costumes, women in long dresses and men in knickerbockers, and they play traditional Chinese instruments such as the piba, erhu, suonan and flute. The music they play is not exactly classical, but the controversial "new traditional Chinese music". For example, it has a man (instead of a woman) play piba and his funny gestures and expressions often draw laughter from the audience.

Address: 1468 Hongqiao Road

Beini This is a small yet wild bar. Its musician humbly nestles on the tiny stage in a corner of the room. The performer usually plays guitar and sings popular karaoke songs. Half drunk audiences are free to sing along, and nobody would mind at all. The atmosphere is like the street bars in western films.

Address: 705 Yongjia Road

O Mary They perform in the outdoor garden in the summer. The performers play and sing the songs they wrote. Foreigners, Americans in particular, love the bar for its laid-back style. They would hum along and tap their feet to the music. To these bar-goers, being involved in the performance is part of the fun. The band starts at 8 p.m. every day.

Address: 42 Taojiang Road

Ponomy Coffee House It is on the second floor of the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank on the Bund. This magnificent Greek-style building of 1923 has three archways and two bronze lions at its front door. Before you sit down for your coffee, you should look at the eight murals on the round ceiling in the lobby. The mosaics of western myths and animals made of several tens of thousands of mosaics are vivid and colourful. They also reflect the architectures of Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, Bangkok and Calcutta in the early 20th Century. Then, from the side door, you take the old-style elevator to reach the second floor to the coffee house, following the red carpet. Most customers prefer the balcony rather than the indoor hall because you can enjoy the beautiful scenery and atmosphere.

The coffee house serves a wide variety of coffees, including espresso, Americano and cappuccino. Prices range from 15 to 32 yuan per cup.

Address: R 226, 12 First Zhongshan Road East

Tel: (21) 63297506



Restaurants Tips

Park 97	Fuxing Park, 2 Caolan Road; Heineken Beer 53 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 42 yuan/glass.
Face	Building 4 Jinbaoguan, 118 Second Ruijin Road; Heineken Beer 40 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 35 yuan/glass.
Booaling	Building 19, Xintiandi, Lane 181, Taicang Road; home-brewed beer 60 yuan/lar; wine and cola 65 yuan/glass.
Malong	255 Tongren Road; Heineken Beer 40 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 45 yuan/glass.
Burbie Street	191 Hengshan Road; Heineken Beer 40 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 45 yuan/glass.
Blue Frog	207-23 Maoming Road South; Heineken Beer 35 yuan/bottle; wine plus cola 35/glass.
Agogo	10 Hengshan Road; Heineken Beer 40 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 35/glass.
Fulu	4 Hengshan Road; Heineken Beer 35 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 30 yuan/glass.
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow	183 Lane 1038, Huashan Road; Heineken Beer 25 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 35 yuan/glass.
Cotton Club	8 Fuxing Road West; Heineken Beer 40 yuan/bottle; wine and cola 40 yuan/glass.



Maoming Road is filled with unique restaurants.



Automatic Chinese restaurant



Jade Garden on Maoming Road South



This modern pub has a tranquil atmosphere.



A fusion dining place

The Hottest Carnival

It was a hot summer afternoon. I was drowning in the heat when I got out of the Lujiazui subway station. The breeze was just another hot wave of air. I was sweating all over as I walked towards the Jia'nianhua Amusement Park, where the atmosphere would be even "hotter" than the scorching sun.

There was a long line-up despite the merciless heat. One person standing closely behind another, the Shanghainese, who are not exactly sun-lovers, waited patiently. Most of the people here were young adults in their 20s, and the middle-aged crowd were here for their children.

Suddenly, a voice from behind asked, "do you want a ticket? No need to stand in line." Even though I was really tempted, but I knew that he was a scalper so I didn't give in.

Thrills Are What You've Paid For!

Finally it was my turn to enter. Music, laughter and screams filled the place and everybody was so excited. Despite the temperature of 38°C, they rushed from one attraction to another, their faces turning

red and their clothes were soaked with sweat. I lined up at the "Topbuzz" and paid six tokens. Though I had been psyching myself up for this ride, but the clerk still had to help me buckle the safety belt. I felt as if I were a lamb being led to the slaughter house. When the music rose, the machine started slowly and its speed accelerated. Cool air blasted my face and I was shot out like a bullet. All of a sudden, there seemed to be a huge hand grasping me on the back, dragging me backward. The sky and earth turned upside down and I knew my blood pressure was rising. I could not breathe with the air pressing into my nostrils. The young women next to me were screaming, their long hair fluttering in the air and their faces twisted, with closed eyes and wide-open mouths, like ghosts. When the machine stopped and I landed, my legs became so weak that I



The hottest carnival in Shanghai

could not stand, so I spread a piece of newspaper on the grass and sat down. Two young people passed by and I heard the woman say, "it is scary. I don't think I can do it." The man replied, "come on. Thrills are what we've paid for!"

"Crazy Mice" looked ordinary, but it was anything but. The cart went

slowly at first, one passenger became impatient and complained, "this is no fun!" But before he finished the sentence, the cart sped up, like a mouse fleeing from a hungry cat. When the machine rose more than 10 m above the ground, the mouse cart rolled 360 degrees. My head was swimming and my body bent. I was afraid that I would fall out of the cart and plunge into the ground. Good thing that when I finally opened my eyes, I was still alive.

A Ride That Let You Tastes Death

The "Mega Drop" also had a long line of people, and all the riders seemed to be very brave. When they were seated with their safety belts on, some smiled and waved to their companions on the ground. They were then lifted to the top and only their legs could be seen from below. There were occasional cries. But suddenly, there came a chorus of screams when they began to fall rapidly. Though the whole ride took only

All doll-up performer



There are milder rides for children



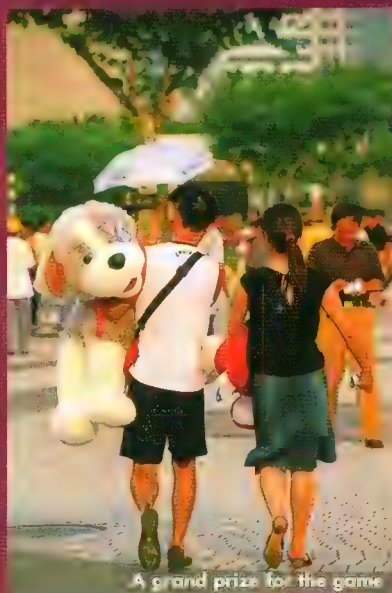
A thrilling ride for couples

two or three seconds, when they landed, some of them had turned pale and seemed to be frozen on their seats. A young man was sweating so badly that he had to be supported by his girlfriend to stand up. Another man rushed out as soon as he unbuckled his safety belt. A girl reported to her waiting mother, "it was not scary on the way up. But at the moment it dropped, I felt my heart jump out of my body. I closed my eyes tightly, thinking that I was going to die. Now, when I find myself alive, I feel so lucky." The mother asked if she wanted to ride again. The girl dragged her mother away and they left.

The Hottest Carnival

Childhood Dreams and the Merry-go-round

Most of the visitors to the Jia'nianhua Amusement Park are students on their summer break and young adults who love thrills. Those who come with their families usually take the more gentle rides, such as the "Europa Wheel" and "Wild Mouse", or play games to win door prizes. A man who came with his wife and son got on the "Europa Wheel". Although he had ridden the same ride before, he found the view from the air quite different this time — he could see both banks of the Huangpu River! Another family had driven all the way from Hangzhou to visit the park, all because of the "Merry-go-round". It turned out that the mother saw the "Merry-go-round" in foreign



A grand prize for the game

movies, and was fallen in love with this romantic ride. "When I saw the 'Merry-go-round' painted in the ad, I told my family that we should go there and have a good time. And now, I have realized my childhood dream," she said. "When the Hong Kong Disneyland is completed in 2005, my family will go there too." Most of the girls showed more interest in games where the prizes were dolls. The toy giant pandas, tigers, bears, rabbits and many others were specially designed for this park and not sold elsewhere. So everybody wanted to try their luck to win one in games such as bowling, target shooting and ring throwing.

In the lost-and-found office, a clerk told me that each day they picked up a huge amount of items, including keys, cameras, cellular phones, and hairpins and women's accessories.

At dusk, the park cooled down and was lit up with blue lights, making the whole area as bright as daytime. More people were still coming in. As the park was already full, the newcomers had to wait for two or three hours to get in. Inside, one had to wait for another two or three hours to get on the most popular rides. Finally came the announcement for those who had not yet bought their tickets —



The amusement park is jam-packed



Merry-go-round

they were requested to choose another day. But there was still a huge crowd at the entrance. Some tried to get in, some were looking for lost companions, some, who had just come out, were considering going back in.

A Come-Back in the Autumn

The park was originally planned to open at the end of April. Its delay of two months because of SARS cost the owners 10 million

yuan. Due to the hot rainy weather in summer, the park had to shorten its opening time to eight hours a day, which caused more losses. However, the unexpected enthusiasm of the visitors helped the owners rebuild confidence.

During the first 30 days it opened in Shanghai, the amusement park received 1.2 million visitors and had an average daily income of 3.3 million yuan, almost double what it made in Hong Kong.

The company decided to come back to Shanghai in autumn and the park will reopen from August 29 to October 12.

Tips

The weather cools down in autumn so the opening time is 12:00-23:00 on weekdays, an hour earlier than the summer program. During weekends, it opens from 11:00-23:00. New games and performances are to be added.

Please remember that you should neither eat too much nor too little before you visit an amusement park. Also, you should stay away from alcohol. Before taking a ride, you should read the notice carefully and only pick the rides you can handle. Be sure to wear a loose T-shirt, trousers and sport shoes. Your belongings such as phone, purse, coins, watch and keys should be well secured in your bag close to your body.

Address: On the riverside of Huangpu River, north of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower in Lujiazui, Pudong, Shanghai

Entry ticket: 30 yuan. You need to pay for each attraction, prices range from 20 to 70 yuan each.



A daring "Electric Fan"



Dining Out

● Shanghai Snacks on Yunnan Road South ●

The Food Street on Yunnan Road South is located at the junction of Yan'an Road and Xizang (Tibet) Road, near the People's Square. Almost all the shops on the street are restaurants, the majority of them serving Shanghai or Sichuan dishes, with a few other cuisines such as Shangdong and Huaiyang (northern Jiangsu). The upturned eaves and glazed tiles of the houses and the red lanterns and stone lions decorating the street are eye-catching and create a happy festive atmosphere.

◎ Xiangjian Restaurant ◎

Xiangjian Restaurant offers Northeast Chinese dishes. Its "Chicken Stewed with Mushrooms" is cooked with medicinal herbs for two hours. The mushrooms are gathered from the wild in the northeast and the baby chickens only weigh about half a kilogram. Its soup is extremely tasty. "Pork Stewed with Noodles" is a distinguish northeastern Chinese dishes. The pork is preserved with salt and spices before it is cooked. The noodles, made from bean starch, cooked together with the pork, are delicious. "Soy Sauce Stewed Pig's Bones" is the most popular. The bones with meat are preserved first and then stewed with soy sauce and spices until they turn dark. One look at the dish is enough to whet your appetite. Dumplings, a common dish in the restaurant, are another must-try items.

Chicken Stewed with Mushrooms — 38 yuan; Pork Stewed with Noodles — 38 yuan; Soy-sauce Stewed Pig's Bones — 26 yuan (small), 39 yuan (big); Imperial steamed Prawns — 48 yuan; Ribs Steamed in Lotus Leaves — 28 yuan; Pickled Cabbage Stir-fried with Noodles — 26 yuan;

Dumplings With Celery, Corn or Wild Vegetable Stuffing — 3 yuan for six.

Address: 98 Yunnan Road South; Opening time: 11:00-22:00

◎ A Fine Bakery ◎

This famous bakery was founded in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 A.D.). But the current Huangtianyuan has become a restaurant specializing in Shanghai and Sichuan dishes. The shop, however, retains its classic Suzhou style with elegant interior decor. "Dry-Fried Little Lobsters" is a typical Sichuan dish, but it's mildly spicy. Only the tails of the little lobsters are cooked, therefore, it's easy to eat and the meat remains tender and fresh. "Fish Boiled in Water" is a large dish. The fish slices neatly piled up in a porcelain container will surely make your mouth watery. The soup cooked with chicken and Jigu mushrooms is also something special. Stewed on a low heat for 10 hours, it's very nourishing and good for the skin.

Fish Boiled in Water — 25 yuan; Dry Fried Little Lobsters — 18 yuan; Soup of Chicken and Jigu Mushrooms — 38 yuan.

Address: 87 Yunnan Road South; Opening time: 11:00 a. m. - 4:00 next morning.

◎ Little Shaoxing ◎

This restaurant serves all kinds of dishes and snacks that are made of chicken. The chicken is called Sanhuangji (Three Yellows) because





three parts of its body — claws, beak and feathers — are all yellow. The chicken at Little Shaoxing is sweet and fresh. Its snacks, such as chicken porridge, stewed chicken giblets and chicken blood soup, are very popular.

Baizhan (sliced cold) Chicken — 22.8 yuan;
Blood Soup — 2 yuan; buns with chicken stuffing — 3 yuan/piece; Drunk Chicken — 25 yuan.

Address: 118 Yunnan Road South; Opening time: 10:45-22:00.

◎ Xiandelai Restaurant ◎

This restaurant is famous for its pork ribs wrapped in sticky cake, a unique Shanghai snack. Xiandelai has its own recipe for this dish. The ribs are dipped in the mixture of flour, cornstarch, spices and eggs before frying. They can be served after they turned golden and crispy outside, and tender and sweet inside. The dish goes well with red pepper sauce or sweet wheat flour sauce. Seafood stuffed wontons (dumpling) and sliced gluten are also good side dishes for it.

Ribs Wrapped in Sticky Cake — 4.5 yuan; Ribs — 4 yuan; Seafood Stuffed Wonton — 3 yuan; Sliced Gluten — 3 yuan.

Address: 265 Yunnan Road;

Opening time: 10:45-22:00.



● Restaurants Guide ●

Tianxianglou Restaurant This was the place where Du Yuesheng, the godfather in Shanghai before 1949, often had tea. Today, it has become an elegant restaurant serving delicious food.

Address: 70 Donghu Road; Telephone: (21) 6415 8158.

The Kong Family Garden Converted from the 80-year-old private house of Kong Xiangxi and his family, this restaurant features Kong family recipes, which symbolize Shanghai cuisine. Among their ten main dishes are "Fish Cooked in Bamboo Net", "Beef Stir-fried with Gentian", "Crispy Fried Prawn Halves" and Chinese cabbage. Their prices are very reasonable.

Address: 336 Wanping Road South; Telephone: (21) 6468 3159.

Art 50 on the 50th floor of the Neptune Hotel As for the best view from a restaurant, it is not anywhere in Jinmao Tower that offers the most beautiful panorama of Lujiazui, Pudong, but Art 50 on the 50th floor of the Neptune Hotel, just one kilometer from the Jinmao. The restaurant serves a buffet of seafood. This bright and spacious dining hall looks like a spaceship with glass windows and roof. When the city lights are on, you can see the shimmering Lujiazui at a distance. It takes one and a half hours to revolve 360 degrees, so you have enough time during your dinner to enjoy the panoramic night scenes of Shanghai.

Seafood buffet — 128 yuan, excluding drinks.

Address: 728 Pudong Boulevard; Telephone: (21) 5036 6666.





Looking for Traces of Zhang Ailing

"The apartment is the most
ideal place to escape from the
world..." — Zhang Ailing



Zhang Ailing
(1920 —
1995), a renowned
Chinese writer,
and her works and
legendary life
remain influential
in the world of

Chinese literature. Like a typical star-chaser, I arrived at her old-fashioned apartment building at 195 Changde Road, Shanghai. On the rain shelter of its front gate, it is written "Changde Flats". Zhang Ailing once lived with her aunt in apartment 65 on the sixth floor.



Old residence of the famous writer, Zhang Ailing

Watching the Sunset from Ailing's Balcony

During Ailing's 25 years stay in Shanghai, this apartment was where she stayed the longest time. Her favourite dwelling place was the balcony, from where she could see parties in the nearby park, housemaids carrying baskets to buy vegetables, and the trams going back to the terminals. As she wrote, "Under the scorching sun, the rails were shining, looking like earthworms just crawling out of the water, stretching and shortening..." Sometimes, when she heard a peddler hawking fermented bean curd in the neighbouring lane, she would hurriedly put her shoes on and take the creaking elevator to buy some. They tasted good after being dipped in hot pepper sauce. Ailing always tried to put as much hot sauce as possible on the bean curd as



Café theory was once described in details in Zhang's novel

it was free. Such episodes were described in her novels "Blockage" and "The Eighteenth Spring".

In the early winter of 1943, Hu Lancheng, deputy director of the Information Department of the government at that time, did not have much work in his office. One day, he received a copy of Tiandi (Heaven and Earth) magazine. He flipped through the magazine while he was resting under the sun in the courtyard, and came upon Ailing's novel "Blockage". After reading the first two paragraphs, he straightened himself up and paid more attention to it. And he read the story over and over. He then learned that the author Zhang Ailing was a woman. In the next issue of Tiandi, there was another story by her, and a photo of her. Hu obtained the address of Ailing, but was told that she refused to see outsiders.

When Zhang Ailing Met Her Lover

Hu was rejected outside the door the first time he went to visit Ailing. He wrote his name and telephone number on a slip of paper and slid it under the door. When Ailing saw the name on the note, she was shocked. Hu Lancheng was famous in Shanghai, but why did he want to see her? She discussed the matter with her aunt, hoping there would be no trouble. Nevertheless, she was full of curiosity. So the next day, she called and told Hu that she was going to see him. Hu's house was actually quite close to her flat, and Zhang arrived after a short walk.



Looking for Traces of

Zhang Ailing

The first meeting was taken both of them by surprise. Ailing had never expected a government official could be so polite and scholarly; Hu, meanwhile, was overwhelmed by Ailing's beauty and unusual features. They discussed a wide range of topics, from history to opera, from art to daily life. The atmosphere was tranquil and pleasant. Hu was the talker most of the time, and Ailing, the listener. Five hours later, Hu walked her home. As they were walking side by side, suddenly, Hu asked, "Why are you so tall?" Ailing was surprised by this question. It annoyed her, but at the same time drew her closer to him.

The following day, Hu came to see Ailing, who greeted him, wearing a blue silk coat and yellow-framed glasses. Hu was deeply impressed by the furnishings of her living room, which was aristocratic and laid back in style, though not luxurious. He came frequently after this visit. When he was there, Ailing's aunt always found an excuse to leave, and Hu would sit for a long time until it was close to dusk, when the setting sun cast a golden ray on the wall, where their shadows turned golden too. Days passed and Ailing fell in love with Hu. As the chief editor of the Nanjing based *Zhonghua Daily*, Hu spent most of his time in Nanjing, but came to Shanghai eight or nine times a month. Every time he arrived in Shanghai, he came to see Ailing first, and they always talked for a long time. They took walks on the street too. Once she wore a close-fitting dress the colour of peach. He said it was pretty; he also liked to see her wearing shoes embroidered with the dragon and phoenix, so she always wore them when he came to see her.



The residence of Zhang's lover, Hu



Hu's old room

This is where the love birds claimed each other's letters



Sometimes, she peeped into the room to observe him, as she wrote, "He sits in an armchair alone, and the room remains tranquil even if there is a storm outside. I know that he means the whole world to me."

In the twilight of a summer day, the two watched the setting sun from her balcony. They talked about the turbulent times, but still, they were bathing in their own happiness.

The Fear of SARS

When I visited Zhang Ailing's apartment building in May, I saw the old mailboxes hung on the wall inside the gate. There was white dust on them. I imagined how Zhang Ailing picked up her letters from Hu Lancheng as well as newspapers and payments from publishing houses from her mailbox. As I was pondering, a woman of about 50 came out of the guardroom and asked me, "who are you looking for?" She looked me up and down. I told her I wanted to visit the apartment in which Zhang Ailing once lived. "Time has changed and others moved in long ago," she said. "It depends on whether the new tenants are willing to let you in." Before I could say a word, she asked again, "who are you?" I told her that I was a reporter of Hong Kong China Tourism Press and was currently in Shanghai doing a report on Zhang Ailing. Before I finished, she retreated to her small room. Her face turned grey when she waved to me, "get out! Now!" A bell ring, the elevator landed and its door opened. The passengers, who were curious about what was going on in the lobby, came and surrounded me. The guard then told them, "he is from Hong Kong, don't let him in." She must have feared I was carrying the SARS virus. Since there was no way to clear my name, I left quickly before she send me away for two weeks' isolation.



Looking for Traces of Zhang Ailing



This residence is too shabby
for a great writer like Zhang.

In Search of Hu's Home

Walking out of the Changde Flats, I went to Meiliyuan, the former home of Hu Lancheng, following the route that Zhang once took. Located in Lane 379 on Yan'an Road West, next door of the Shanghai Institute of Opera, Meiliyuan is a group of European-style buildings. All the buildings are three storeys and each has a small garden in front. However, which one was the former home of Hu? Neither Hu nor Ailing ever mentioned it in their writings.

The only thing I could do was knocked on the doors and asked. Again and again, I asked, "was this the house where Hu Lancheng lived?" Those who opened the doors were all puzzled. Some said, "sorry, no one has the surname Hu here." Others asked, "who is Hu Lancheng?" Finally, an old man gave me a clue, "at No. 28 there once lived an elderly woman whose surname was Hu.

But she moved long ago." I guessed he had mistaken Hu Lancheng as a woman. Anyway, I decided to try my luck at No. 28. Somebody answered the door to let me in. I found that there were five families living in the building of 200 m². Fang Shungen who lived on the ground floor told me that the house originally belonged to Hu Lancheng. After the Japanese surrendered, he ran away as he knew a traitor like him who had worked for the Japanese invaders would be punished. His house was left to his niece Hu Yuchun. "After my mother bought the house in 1948," Fang continued, "she kept a room for Hu Yuchun. But she moved out later when a relative of hers came back from abroad. My mother kept in touch with her, but since my mother died last year, there has been no contact between our families." Fang said I was lucky to have met him, as no one else knew the history of this house. He added that the other families moved in during the "Cultural Revolution" after his mother handed the estate's ownership to the government.

After the war with Japan, Hu Lancheng fled to Zhejiang Province. When Ailing went to see him, she found that he had another mistress.

This is where Zhang lived before she left for HK.

Heart-broken, she quarreled with him. In her heart, Ailing still cared for Hu, as she wrote in a letter to him, "I have thought about it. Even if I have to leave you, I won't commit suicide, but I shall not be able to love anyone else. I'll wither and fall." She still kept her heart open for Hu. In the end, Hu fled to Japan, where he married a widow of another traitor. The couple opened a bar and Hu published his autobiography, "My Life in This World", which, because of the legendary love story of him and Ailing, became a bestseller.

Leaving Shanghai

Before leaving Shanghai, Zhang Ailing stayed in today's Changjiang Flats. Through the window of her apartment, she could see the International Hotel, the highest building in the Far East at the time, and the Cotton Theatre where foreign films were shown. In 1945, the drama based on Zhang Ailing's novel, Love of the City, was staged there to high acclaim.

Her flat was part of the International Hotel compound. Not only was it in better condition, it was located downtown, in the vicinity of both Nanjing Road, the business center of Shanghai, and the Jockey Club. And, it was a five-minute walk to Fourth Avenue (today's Fuzhou Road), where one could find good restaurants, bookstores, theatres and brothels — the lively Shanghai life of the common people that Zhang Ailing loved to depict.

In 1952, the building was renamed Changjiang Flats and was taken over by the military. Mr. Wang, who had lived in the

building for 40 years, told me that those who moved in at that time were all bureau directors of the municipal government. In the same year, Zhang Ailing was accepted by Hong Kong University to resume her studies there. During her stay in Hong Kong, she wrote the long novels "Yangge Dance" and "Love in the Red Region". Three years later, she immigrated to New York and won the McDowell Award for Literature. When she was in New Hampshire to receive the award, she met an American writer 30 years her senior. They married six months later. In 1961, when Ailing was visiting Taiwan, news came that her husband had suffered cerebral hemorrhage and was paralyzed. She returned to the United States immediately. Over the next seven years, Zhang Ailing stayed by his side, taking care of him until he died. Several years later, the lonely Ailing moved to Los Angeles, where she finished her novel, "Nightmare in the Red Building", and translated "Flowers on the Sea", and also wrote articles and reviews.

On Mid-Autumn Festival day in 1995, Zhang Ailing was found dead on the floor of her apartment when the manager of the building opened her door.

In Memory of Zhang

Shanghai plans to build a museum in memory of Zhang Ailing. The design is finished, but the site has not yet decided. Two possible destinations are Yishan Road, near the Huating Hotel, and Fuxing Road. Collections of Zhang's belongings, including her handwritings, books, photos, TV plays and films adapted from her novels, have already begun. Meanwhile, the TV series "Coming from the Sea: The Legend of Zhang Ailing" is being shot in Shanghai.



Zhang's favorite theatre



Zhang must pass this club on her way to Hu.



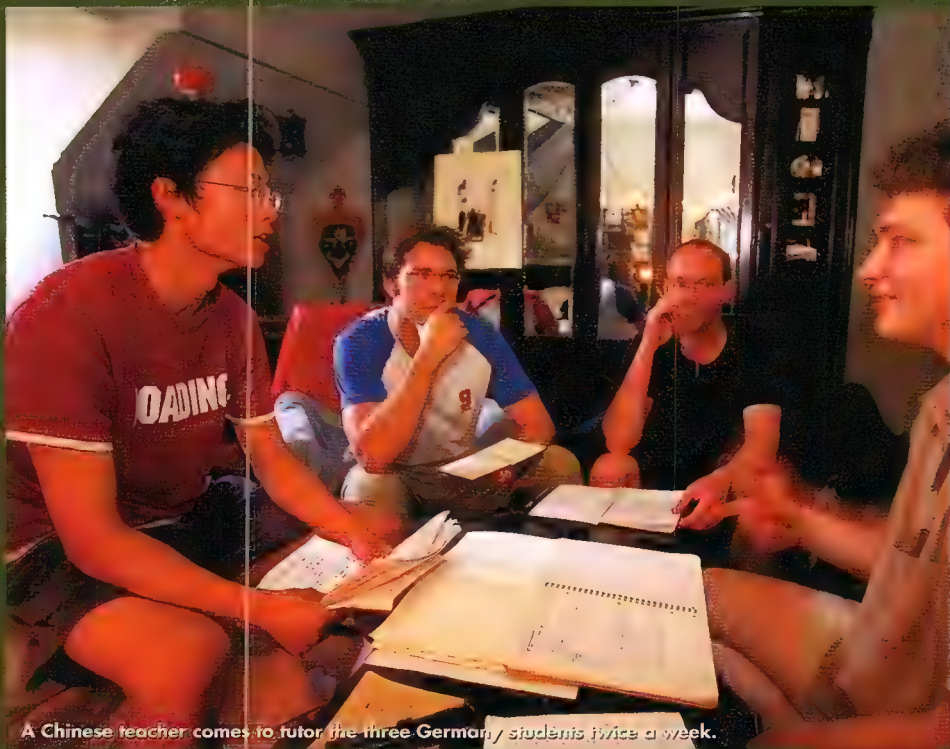
The upcoming TV series about Zhang's life

German Students

Translated by Anju K.

in Shanghai

Fan Bin is the Chinese name of Fabian Wagner, a German student who is now studying in China. He has loved Oriental civilization since he was a boy, and he planned to study in India after his graduation from Berlin University a year ago, but ended up studying in Shanghai instead. Fan longed to experience the life of the Chinese as much as he can, and he even began to study Taiji Boxing and weiqi (go) before leaving Germany.



A Chinese teacher comes to tutor the three German students twice a week.

After his arrival in Shanghai, he rented a three-room flat in a Shikumen (a typical old stone house) with his schoolmates Lange and Markus. The rent was 3,000 yuan a month, and the landlord provided a refrigerator, air-conditioners, and some furnitures.

The Local Experience

I called Fan Bin up for a visit to his home. When we met, he led me to an old street that was filled with Shikumen. Turning one corner after another we came to the back door of a two-storey building with a mailbox and a milk-box nailed on the panel. Pushing open the door I found that the ground floor was the site of the kitchen, dim and wet. Immediately a smell of stale smoke assailed the nostrils.

"Nong hao (How are you)!" Fan Bin hailed the landlady in Shanghai dialect. "Nong hao!" The gray-haired landlady, who was washing vegetables by the sink, turned her head smiling and responded softly and amiably. It sounded as if she was correcting

Fan's pronunciation.

The staircase was narrow and dark. Fan Bin turned on a dim light and led the way up the stairs with the wooden steps squeaking under his feet. The upstairs gave off a rotten smell. There Fan introduced me to his room-mates Lange and Markus. They were all very friendly and easy-going.

The three rooms were pretty small, from about 8 m² to 20 m². The largest room was served as a sitting-room for a three-seat sofa and a two single-seat one. At time when they have many guests, the bed would serve as seats. When there was a weekend party, they simply dismantled the bed.

The three guys were music lovers. They brought CDs from Germany include Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner and Strauss, as well as modern rock music from the USA, UK and Sweden. The pasted the CDs cover on the walls randomly like they did their cartoons posters. "We still need to download updated modern music from the web." Lange told me while downloading music simultaneously.

A photograph lover, Fan got a 135 Olympus camera and hung



Everyone is having a great time.

the photos he took on the corridor, and there was a price tag of 200 yuan for each picture. This was his side job.

The Lenient Neighbors

Lange was the most fluent Chinese speaker among the three. Not only could he speak putonghua, but also some Shanghai dialect. He was gifted for sure, but his native girlfriend helped him a lot as well.

Fan felt more local after living in a Shikumen. It was unthinkable to pass your neighbor's kitchen when going in and out of the building in Germany. On top of that, since the house was made of wood, it was very difficult to maintain privacy. Sometimes he had friends over for weekend parties. The sitting-room was packed, the music was loud and everyone went wild till the middle of the night. They would have gotten into big trouble if they party like that in Germany; however, their Chinese neighbors were lenient to them.

Partying with the Shanghainese Girls

"I've seen people working very hard in China," said Fan, "but in Germany, we work 35 hours a week and we have 13-day legal holiday a year. Generally workers of public service departments get off very early on a Friday afternoon. Now I doubt about our reputation of hardworking."

"Are you going to stay in Shanghai after graduation?" I asked.

"I haven't giving it much thought yet," he continued. "I hope I can keep on studying and touring around the world all my life."

Fan Bin goes on tour each holiday during the year in Shanghai. He has visited Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province, Dali and Lijiang in Yunnan, Guilin in Guangxi and Putuo Mountain in Zhejiang. He told me frankly that he loved Chinese civilization but he didn't agree with Confucius. Why? Because the ancient Chinese saint did not respect the equality of both sexes.

Markus was born with a deformity in his right hand. Used to be self-conscious, he has now changed into a new person after staying in Shanghai. He told me excitedly that things in China were really economical. Not long ago he ordered a hand-made suit of high quality woolen fabric at a market in Dongjiadu. It only cost him 700 yuan, merely one-tenth of that in Germany.

Markus was a party animal. "Bars in Shanghai are relatively expensive. It cost 45 yuan for a bottle of beer at Xintiandi! That is even more expensive than the regular bars in Germany."

"But why do you keep on visiting bars?"

"I can get to know many pretty Shanghai girls there." He laughed.



Fan Bin takes an intense interest in go. After every tutorial he keeps the teacher to play a game of chess with him.



You can get good quality, custom-made clothes in China at a reasonable price.



Foreign students love to party.

Shanghai Tips

Getting There:

Shanghai has two international airports, three railway stations and several passenger ports, so transportation is very convenient. However, don't get mix up about the terminal's location!

Airports:

Shanghai is the only Chinese city that has two international airports. Pudong International Airport takes up sixty percent of the flights and Hongqiao International Airport takes care of the rest. Once you obtain your air ticket, double check the name of the airport. In case you need to transfer from one to the other, you can take a bus. The ride takes about 45 minutes, and it costs 30 yuan. There are six special bus lines to take passengers from downtown

Shanghai South Station has 22 trains that go to Hangzhou.

Subways:

Shanghai has three subway lines: Line 1 from Shanghai Railway Station to Shenzhuan (2 to 4 yuan), Line 2 from Zhongshan Park to Zhangjiang Gaoke in Pudong (2 to 4 yuan), Line 3 from Shanghai South Station to Jiangwanzhen (2 to 3 yuan).



Shanghai Metro

Cruises on the Hungpu River:

1. From Jinling Road East to the newly built Lupu Bridge, passing Nanpu Bridge and the Bund on the return trip; duration: 2 hours; fare: 48 yuan/person.
2. From Jinling Road East to Yangpu Bridge and back; duration: 1 hour; 25 yuan/person (daytime), 38 yuan/person (night).

Buses:

Shanghai has a huge public transport network with more than 1,100 bus routes. As the routes are complicated and traffic jams are common, travelling by bus is not recommended.

Taxis:

More than 50,000 taxis are in service, and most of the them are Volkswagen Santanas. The charge is usually 10 yuan for the first 3

km, 2 yuan for the next 7 km, and 3 yuan for every kilometer afterward. At night (23:00-5:00), they charge 13 yuan for the first 3 km, 2.6 yuan for the next 7 km and 3.9 yuan for every kilometer afterward. Of course, you can try to bargain for a night ride.

There are only three toll passes in the city. The first one is on the road from Hongqiao International Airport to the Yan'an overpass (15 yuan); the second one is from Pudong International Airport to Yingbin Road (15 yuan), and the third one is at the Yunzaobang Bridge to Baoshan (12 yuan). All other bridges and tunnels linking Pudong and Puxi are free.

Railways:

Shanghai has three railway stations: the Shanghai Station (New Station), Shanghai West Station (formerly Zhenru Station) and Shanghai South Station (formerly Xinlonghua Station). Shanghai Station is the main terminal, running a total of 140 trains to all over China. Shanghai West Station has trains that run between Shanghai and Yantai, Zaozhung, Hengyang, Jinggangshan, Zhangjiajie and Chengdu.

Budget Hotels

If you don't want to pay the killing price for staying at a four- or five-star hotel, yet still want to stay close to downtown, try one of the following guesthouses.

Captain's Youth House

Address: 37 Fuzhou Road (just a few dozen meters from the Bund, the bar on the roof offers a view of Huangpu River); Telephone: (21) 6323 5053; Sailor's cabin: 55 yuan/room, with clean public bathroom.

Shanghai Lulinge

Address: 63-65 Shunchang Road (five minutes walk from Huanhai Road Central and the curio market on Dongtai Road); Telephone: (21) 5382 2919; Standard room: 120 yuan (rooms are limited, so



Some bookstores open 24-hour a day.



Captain's Youth House

you'd better book ahead).

Reception House of the Shanghai Office of the Jiangsu Provincial Government

Add: On the Pedestrian Street of Nanjing Road (opposite of the Hailun Hotel);
Standard room: 150 yuan (lobby on the fourth floor).

Shopping

The Pedestrian Street on Nanjing Road

Known as the "No. 1 Commercial Street in China", Nanjing Road is the most prosperous business center in Shanghai, where you can find a variety of department stores. However, neither the native Shanghainese nor new residents go shopping on Nanjing Road, for they believe the shops are out-of-date. And they speak of the Bund with the same contempt.

Transport: Take subway Line 1 and get off at Renmin Guangchang (People's Square), or take buses No. 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23m 37, 55 or 921.

Shopping on Huaihai Road

The busiest section on Huaihai Road is between Xizang Road and Shaanxi Road, about 2.2 km long. The street is lined with Western buildings and its roadsides are planted with French parasols. There are also numerous modern shopping centers such as Times Square, Hong Kong Plaza, New World Tower, and Central Plaza. Times Square is a copy of the Hong Kong Times Square, and even its celebration of the New Year Eve is exactly the same as its twin. More than 400 shops on Huaihai Road focus on the high-class brand name commodities. Huaihai Road is Shanghai's heart of fashion.

Transport: Take subway Line 1 and get off either at Huangpi Nanlu or Shaanxi Nanlu; or take buses No. 02, 42, 911, 920 or 926, or take Tourist Bus No. 10.

Dongjiadu Fabric Market

The market is located near Chenghuangmiao, or City God Temple. It offers not only textile products

but also good tailoring. It only costs around 800-900 yuan to have a woollen suit made.

The Curio Market on Dongtai Street

It is one of the big curio markets in Shanghai, with more than 200 stalls and 40 shops selling all kinds of items, including porcelain, pottery, wooden articles, jade, bamboo crafts, paintings and calligraphy. This market is popular with tourists from home and abroad.

Transport: This market is about 10 minutes walk from Xintiandi. Take Buses No. 17, 18, 24 or 728 and get off at Fuxinglu or Xizanglu; or take subway Line 1, get off at Huangpi Nanlu and walk 15 minutes.



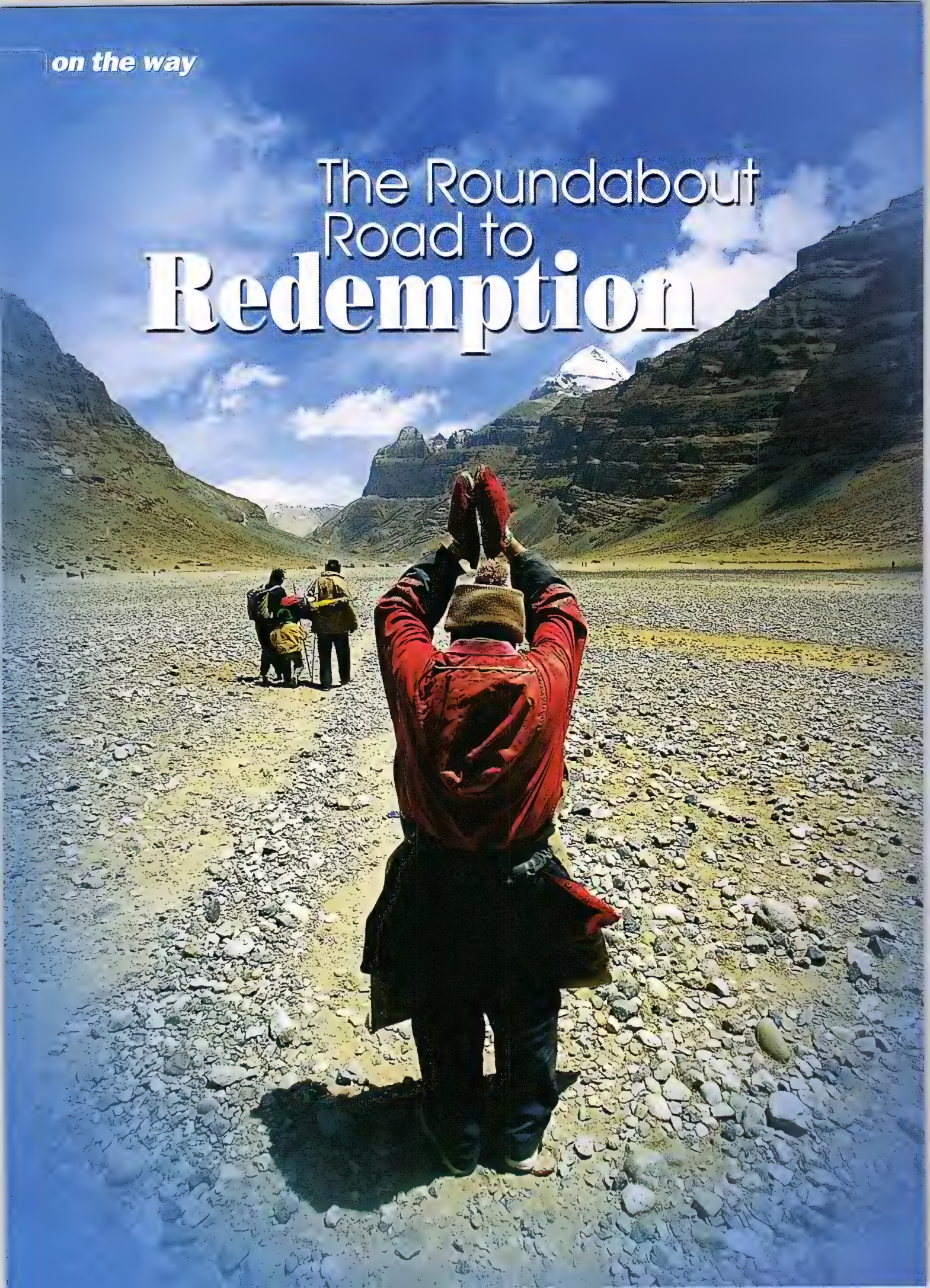
The Curio Market on Dongtai Street

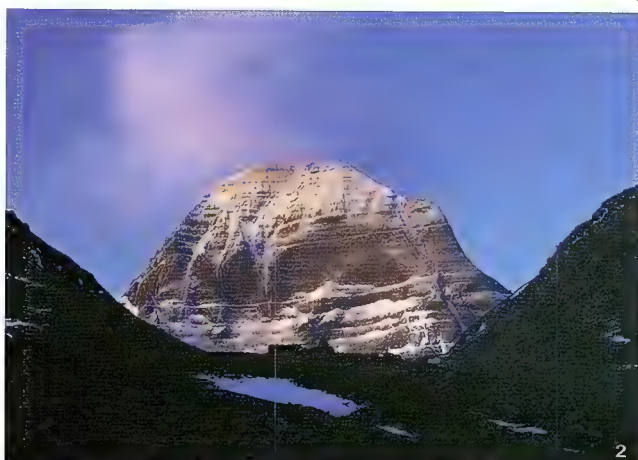


Cruises on the Huangpu River

on the way

The Roundabout Road to **Redemption**





The founder of Buddhism is said to have instructed the people on the snow-covered highland to “circle the Mountain in the Year of Horse, and the Lake in the Year of Ram”.

The holy “Mountain” — Kangrinboqe Peak, in the Ngari Prefecture of western Tibet — is worshipped by followers of Tibetan Buddhism, Hinduism and other religions. The “Lake” is Nam Co, the most sacred lake in Tibet. Devoted worshippers believe that to circle around both the holy mountain and the sacred lake once in their birth year (which comes every twelve years), one can gain 13 times more merit and be able to wash away all one’s sins.



Circling the Holy Peak

In the Year of the Horse

Article by Wei Se Photos by Che Gang

Kangrinboqe Peak is the summit of Gangdisé Mountain. With an altitude of 6,638 m above sea level, its worldwide fame is far behind Qomolangma (Mount Everest). However, geographical altitude matters little in the realm of spirituality. The Tibetans call the peak “Kangri”, which means “treasure of the snowy mountains”. In

1. Pilgrims present their prayers in different ways, some through walking, while others through pious postures.
2. The holy mountain can be seen at the 22 km point of the circle.
3. Walking through the colourful sutra streamers established at the Zhomala Pass, pilgrims to the holy mountain believe they are blessed with good fortune.



Buddhism, this peak occupies a position as important as the Mandala, or the center of the universe.

It is true that for some religions, including Tibetan Buddhism, Hinduism and Bon, Kangrinboqe means the center of the world. According to the legend, the peak was born in the Year of the Horse, the same year as Sakyamuni. To circle the peak has long been considered a way to live out the faith of Buddhism. Circling the holy mountain is a "must". It doesn't matter how many times a believer circles the mountain, or even, be able to complete at all, one would feel relieved by taking the journey, because one has tried to express his or her belief. To circle Kangrinboqe in the Year of the Horse is even more propitious since one circle equals thirteen times in any other year.

The best time to circle Kangrinboqe Peak is the 15th day of the fourth lunar month in the Tibetan calendar, as this was Sakyamuni's birthday, the day he became Buddha and the day of his Nirvana. On this day, people would plant poles at the entrance to the peak, and hang sutra streamers on them. Then, with nothing but the Buddha in their hearts, they walk 56.5 km to circle the holy mountain, reciting sutras all the way.

However, it was not easy to circle the holy mountain on this special day of the Year of Horse. The problem was not the massive crowd but the difficulty in getting a permit to enter the Ngari Prefecture. Another problem was getting a vehicle.

I thought it would be impossible for me to go to Kangrinboqe this year. Unexpectedly, the opportunity seemed to fall from heaven. One day at the end of June, two Tibetan friends, one a Living Buddha and the other a government official, came to see me. They planned to go to the holy mountain and invited me to join them.



The Pilgrims' Road

We set off from Lhasa on June 30. After arriving in Xigaze, we

bought fresh yak meat, preserved meat and a pile of pancakes. We had the yak meat cooked and packed in a Sichuan restaurant. The following day, we were on the road, passing the towns of Lhaze and Sangsang to reach the 22nd Road Maintenance Squad. Here we had two choices: one was the shorter south road; the other was the north road, which could offer more pristine scenery. We chose the former.



A Happy Death on the Mountain

The next noon, we mounted a slope decorated with colourful





sutra streamers. From here, we could see the vague shape of Kangrinboqe Peak shrouded in clouds at a distance. The place we stayed was within the boundary of Ngari Prefecture.

We did not see many vehicles on the road because the peak time of circling had passed. At the foot of Kangrinboqe Peak, however, there was still a huge cluster of vehicles and tents. Apart from the merchants who had opened numerous restaurants and grocery stores, there were over 1,000 pilgrims, including many from India. In addition, there were tourists from home and abroad as well. We learned that about a dozen of worshippers, including Chinese, elderly Tibetans and foreigners, had died there this year. To devoted worshippers, however, it is an honour to die at Kangrinboqe Peak. The material world has little meaning to them.



Smart Ways of Circling

There are two routes to circle the holy mountain, the outer circle and the inner circle. It usually takes two or three days to walk the outer circle, though some locals and many Tibetans can finish the route in one day. The inner route is not for everyone. Only those who finished 13 circles on the outer route are qualified to walk on the inner route. Nevertheless, people who finished one circle along the outer route in the Year of the Horse are qualified. It sounds great. We had allowed two days for finishing the outer circle, as we heard that on the way, tents and food were provided, and porters were available. We changed our plan to one day before we started. We crawled out of our warm sleeping bags at 3:30 a.m. and got ready to set off. I handed out the two rolls of sutra streamers that we had brought from

Lhasa, zanba (baked qingke barley flour), mulberry branches, incense, as well as my camera and films to a girl much younger than I. She was from a village in the suburbs of Xigaze and was working as a porter to serve the mountain circlers. Generally, it cost 60 yuan to hire a porter like this for a day, but it could be less sometimes. There were also people who circled the mountain on behalf of others, those who were constrained physically. If you want to take the easy way out, you can always hire someone to circle the mountain for you.



Getting Close to the Mandala

We started our circling at around 5:30 a.m., before daybreak.

Soon a flatland with undulating hills appeared in front of us. On one side, the larger half of the Kangrinboqe Peak stood in its unique shape. Brilliant rays seemed to radiate from the mountaintop. Over the years, many worshippers must have moved at the sight, face to face with this holy mountain. To the worshippers, Kangrinboqe is the Mandala.

The Living Buddha conducted a Buddhist sacrificial ceremony here and we went through the rites of worshipping, praying and digging a pit to bury the pengba (treasure bottle), which held copies of

1. Assisted by his followers, a high-status monk of almost 90 years old circles around the holy mountain.
2. Holding a ceremony in front of the Mani Pile to worship the holy mountain at a distance.
3. Zhomala Pass, at 5,800 m above sea level, is the highest point on the circle route.
4. A Dongfeng truck hired by pilgrims for their journey to the holy mountain.





the sutra, perfume and other items. Then we piled up stones to build a pagoda and planted a pole as thick as a mug at its center. On the pole, we fixed long streamers and hadas (a piece of silk used as a greeting gift among Tibetan and Mongol nationalities), whose other ends we fastened to rocks around. There, we built our curtain-like taqin, or streamer forest. In the end, we burnt mulberry branches, offered wine and sacrifices. The streamers fluttered in the wind, carrying our wishes to the ear of Kangrinboqe.



The Mercy of Buddha

It was afternoon when we resumed our circling. It is said that the route is more than 5,000 m above sea level, but my heart rate and breath are normal, thanks to the butter tea and zanba I had. Tea made of yak butter and zanba made of qingke barley are the best foods for travelling in the highlands. Not only can they satisfy your hunger and refuel your energy, but they can also deal with the lack of oxygen.

As we approached the highest point on the route, the 5,630 m Zhomala Pass, we met two lamas of the Ningma Sect of Tibetan Buddhism from Xinlong. Wearing rugged kasaya and carrying rustic belongings, they smiled brightly through their tanned faces, saying, "We're going to make 13 circles." I trusted them to make another circle for a friend of mine in Lhasa, who could not circle the holy mountain because of his poor physical condition, and handed them 200



yuan. I was sure that I had found the right people to do this and offered them more money as a donation. They waved their hands and refused to take it, saying, "That's enough. You can save this for other lamas."

Thanks to the mercy of Kangrinboqe, we had a good day — there was neither scorching sun nor wild wind that made our journey difficult. On our way down from the mountain, we passed a valley of green grass. All of a sudden, a shower fell from heavens, cooling and refreshing us. When we finally reached the foot of Kangrinboqe at 9:30 p.m., I could not believe that we had walked 50 km of mountain road. According to other circlers, what had happened to us indicated the Buddha was pleased with us. Could it be true? Maybe it had something to do with the magic timing.





Circling the Sacred Lake

In the Year of the Ram

Article and Photo by Che Gang

In Tibetan Buddhism, Nam Co lake, situated in Nagqu Prefecture of Tibet, is the symbol of Vajra Mother lying on the ground. It is also said to be the fundamental land of Shengle, the leading Vajra of the Mizong Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. To bathe in the water of Nam Co, one can cleanse one's sins, worries and diseases.



The Heavenly Lake

Nam Co is listed as the most sacred lake in Tibet, the other two being Yamzho Yumco and Mapam Yumco. On its south bank stands the magnificent snow-capped Nyainqentanglha Mountain. Legend has it that Nyainqentanglha, reaching 7,111 m above sea level, and Nam Co, at an altitude of 4,718 m, were lovers. The lake was the daughter of Sakra-devanamindra, one of the protective gods in Tibetan Buddhism.

There are many legends about Nam Co, all of them showing the lofty position that occupies in the hearts of the worshippers.

Nam Co, in Tibetan, means Heavenly Lake; in Mongolian, it's called Tengri Sea. The lake extends 70 km from east to west and 30 km from south to north, covering an area of 1,920 km². It is the world's highest-altitude salt lake and the second largest salt lake in China, the largest being the Qinghai Lake in Qinghai Province. Nam Co has five

islands, including the largest and most popular among worshippers and tourists, Zhaxi Island, which is actually a small peninsular. As most of the temples are situated on Zhaxi Island, it is the activity center for both pilgrims and visitors.



Witnessing a Miracle

Three years ago, I went to Nam Co to attend a religious ceremony conducted by a master monk in his 80s from the Labrang Monastery in Gansu Province. On the western edge of Zhaxi Island, the master sat upright on a huge rock, facing west, holding a precious bottle and reciting sutras. He was going to put the bottle into the sacred lake as a sacrifice. It was mid-April, and the lake surface was frozen. In front of my eyes, the master threw the bottle into the lake while reciting sutras. The ice began cracking, and a crevice 30 cm long and 10 cm wide appeared. After the master put his precious bottle into the crack, the ice crevice eventually closed. In a second, clouds gathered in the west and a strong wind began to blow, followed by a hailstorm that lasted for 10 minutes. Seeing this auspicious sign, all people at the site were shocked. They knelt down and read their prayers, holding their hands in front of their chests, with the two palms pressed together.

The master monk then walked to the southern side of the peninsular and recited sutras towards Mount Nyainqentanglha, as other lamas followed him with burning mulberry branches. The ceremony lasted for about two hours. When the master stood up,

1. Praying and fixing the streamer.
2. Pilgrims fetch holy water from the Nam Co.
3. The mass of pilgrims who circle the lake.



holding a hada to present to the sacred lake and the holy mountain, a ray of sunshine penetrated the clouds on to the icy lake, just like a white hada. People hailed the sight. It might have been a coincidence of natural phenomena, but for the viewers, it was nothing but a miracle since it happened at the sacred lake during a Buddhist sacrificial ceremony.



The Pilgrims Gather en Masse

The 15th day of the fourth month in the Tibetan calendar, which fell on June 23 this year, is the birthday of Sakyamuni, as well as the day of his becoming Buddha and attaining Nirvana. It is the grand Sagadawa Festival in Tibet. The month around this day was the most auspicious period of the year and also the best time to make atonement for one's sins.

On that day, about a hundred thousand people gathered on Zhaxi Island. They were pilgrims from Tibet, Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan and other provinces, and tourists from home and abroad. On the lakeside, thousands of tents were pitched.

Two huge rocks form the gate of Shaxi Island, each standing more than 10 m high. Colourful streamers were fixed on the rocks, the shorter ones about a dozen meters long and the longer ones, several hundred meters. The streamers fixed on the

rocks and mountains formed an extremely magnificent view. They fluttered in the wind, sending prayers and good wishes to heaven.

A 30 m-tall hill stands in the center of Zhaxi. Its originally yellowish body turned white on the day. We thought it might because the pilgrims had spread zanba on it, but when we drew close, we found it had been covered with hadas. Everyone who came to circle the lake would wrap a stone in a hada and, after making his or her wish, throw the hada on to the hill; the higher, the better. If a hada could reach the hilltop, it was very auspicious. All pilgrims to the lake, men and women, old and young, gave their prayers in this way.



A Family Affair

While walking around the sacred lake, people dipped towels into the lake and used them to clean their bodies. Some of them even jumped into the icy water to take a bath for purification.


A circle of the lake is more than 300 km, taking two days to drive around. A circle on foot takes about a month. Most people circle Zhaxi Island instead, since most temples and sites for practicing Buddhism are concentrated here. It takes more than an hour to walk a circle, but for those who prostrate themselves on the ground all the way, it takes one or two days.

Circling the Zhaxi Island, I met some pilgrims from Sichuan, Qinghai and other provinces. They told me that one circle made in the





Year of the Ram equals the completion of 13 circles in any other year. Many had come in hired trucks with fellow villagers, and some had brought their whole families. In some cases, all the households in a village would come together. During the journey of more than 10 days, they stayed in the open for the night.

An elderly Tibetan lady of 87 had just finished her circle on Zhaxi with the support of her family when I saw her. She told me it could be the last time in her life to make such a circle. She could have been the oldest of the pilgrims. The youngest was a baby of several months, who completed the circle in his mother's arms. On their way, now and again, the mother cleaned the baby with the lake water; at Mani Piles, she would drag the baby's hand over the auspicious streamers, hoping Buddha would protect her child. In various methods, tens of thousands of pilgrims expressed their good wishes and devotion to their gods — through the streamers, hadas, mulberry branches — and their faithful hearts. 

Translated by Gloria Shang



1. The gate of Zhaxi Island decorated with streamers.
2. Every pilgrim throws a hada onto the hill standing by the lake.

Many years ago I went back to my hometown in Guanxian County, Sichuan province. One morning my grandpa asked me to accompany him to the teahouse. At the cock's crow, Grandpa came to wake me. We walked toward a teahouse about 100 m from my home. It was still dark. There were only a few pedestrians on the street but the teahouse was bustling with people—some were trying to get the attention of waiters and waitresses; some were exchanging morning greetings; and the others were chatting while drinking tea. It seemed that all the people in the town started their days at the teahouse. After saying “Hello” to his friends, Grandpa sat down in the same seat he had occupied for many years, and began sipping tea from a bowl with a cover and a saucer. Grandpa’s motionless posture looked like a statue under the morning light. Grandpa was a reserved man. Very often, he would sit at the teahouse all day long without saying a word. Sometimes he even forgot to go home for meals. Only at the teahouse, can his eyes reflected his contentment in life, which was rarely seen at any other time.

To Live and Die in Sichuan's Teahouses

Article and Photos by Chen Jin



To understand the culture of Sichuan Province is to understand its tea parlours; and to understand the tea parlours is to understand the tea-lovers.

1. Taking a nap at the teahouse.
2. The skillful waiters are admired and appreciated.



Almost all people in Sichuan are guests of teahouses. Among the loyal customers, many would regard teahouses as their homes and the essential part of their lives.

The devoted teahouse customers are those who go to the teahouse everyday, and consider going to the teahouse a matter of prime importance. They have no problem eating less food and taking less sleep, but they must go to the teahouse everyday. If one is too busy to stay for long, one tries to squeeze in some time in the middle of the day for a quick "routine visit". To frequent customers, sitting in

the teahouse is not only a hobby, but also the most important link in their lives. My Grandpa was a regular customer of the teahouse. Each day at four or five in the early morning, he would go to the teahouse, no matter it is hot or cold, good weather or bad. He used to sit in the teahouse until eight or nine o'clock, and then went home for breakfast. After taking a short nap after lunch, he would go to the teahouse again at about two o'clock in the afternoon, and stayed there until the sunset. If Grandma didn't send for him, no one could predict how long he would stay in the teahouse. More often than not,



he would stay in the teahouse from morning till night.

Someone described that the relationship between customers and teahouses as like water and fish. One of my colleagues told me a story about a distant relative who was addicted to the teahouse. When he missed

going to the teahouse for one day, he could not sleep. According to my observations in the past few years, teahouse customers generally fall into three categories: those who just want the tea, those who go for the social life, and those who go because they have nothing better to do.

Teahouses are like cafés... excellent places for socializing, tale-telling, business and leisure.



The Measure of a Tea Drinker

Customers of the first type go to the teahouse because they are thirsty or hungry. They drink tea and buy snacks from peddlers to be fed. In the evening, they get hot water

from a public kitchen to soak their feet. They don't cook at home, and rely on the teahouse for food and drink. Some customers hold business talks at the teahouse. At a teahouse at Songxiangqiao, home of a famous antique market in Chengdu, all the customers are into the antique business. The Heming Teahouse in Shaocheng Park used to be the place to employ teachers. In summer and winter vacations, people from Chengdu and the neighboring counties gathered in the teahouse, hoping to be employed as teachers. In the old society, Master Baoge set up an office in a teahouse to handle his wharf

business. Generally people come to the teahouse to meet or treat friends, or to find a go-between in a dispute.

Enjoying the Teahouse

Teahouse customers of the second type come to the teahouses to listen to stories or to chat. They come here to enjoy themselves. The Sichuan people are straightforward, optimistic, and conservative pleasure-seekers. The way they pursue leisure and enjoyment can be fully demonstrated by teahouse customers. Some teahouses have their own opera troupes, which give performances every afternoon. The audiences are regular customers. Other *Quyí* (Chinese folk art forms such as ballad singing, storytelling, comic dialogues, and cross talks) take turns to perform at large teahouses. Although they perform at different places, actors and actresses may see familiar faces all the time.

Many people in Sichuan like to play mahjong. Mahjong was not invented by the Sichuan people; however, mahjong is the most popular recreation in Sichuan. Local people play mahjong indoor and outdoor, in the fields, at home, at work, during a trip, at weddings, at funerals, or at baby showers or birthday parties. Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, is also



known as "the capital of mahjong."

Yet, a few years ago, the Chengdu Municipal Government issued a decree prohibiting the playing of mahjong on the streets, in the parks and at the teahouses, so as to protect the image of Chengdu. Still, teahouse customers have their own way of playing mahjong. Special teahouses for mahjong lovers can be found in every small street. To teahouse customers, the teahouse is a land of happiness.

Distinguished Teahouse Customers

The third kind of customer comes to the teahouse neither for drinking tea, doing

business, nor seeking entertainment. It is just that their lives cannot be separated from the teahouses. My grandpa belonged to this group. In the past, customers came to teahouses to chat, to listen to stories, to hold business talks, to engage in social contacts, and to drink "work tea" or "entertainment

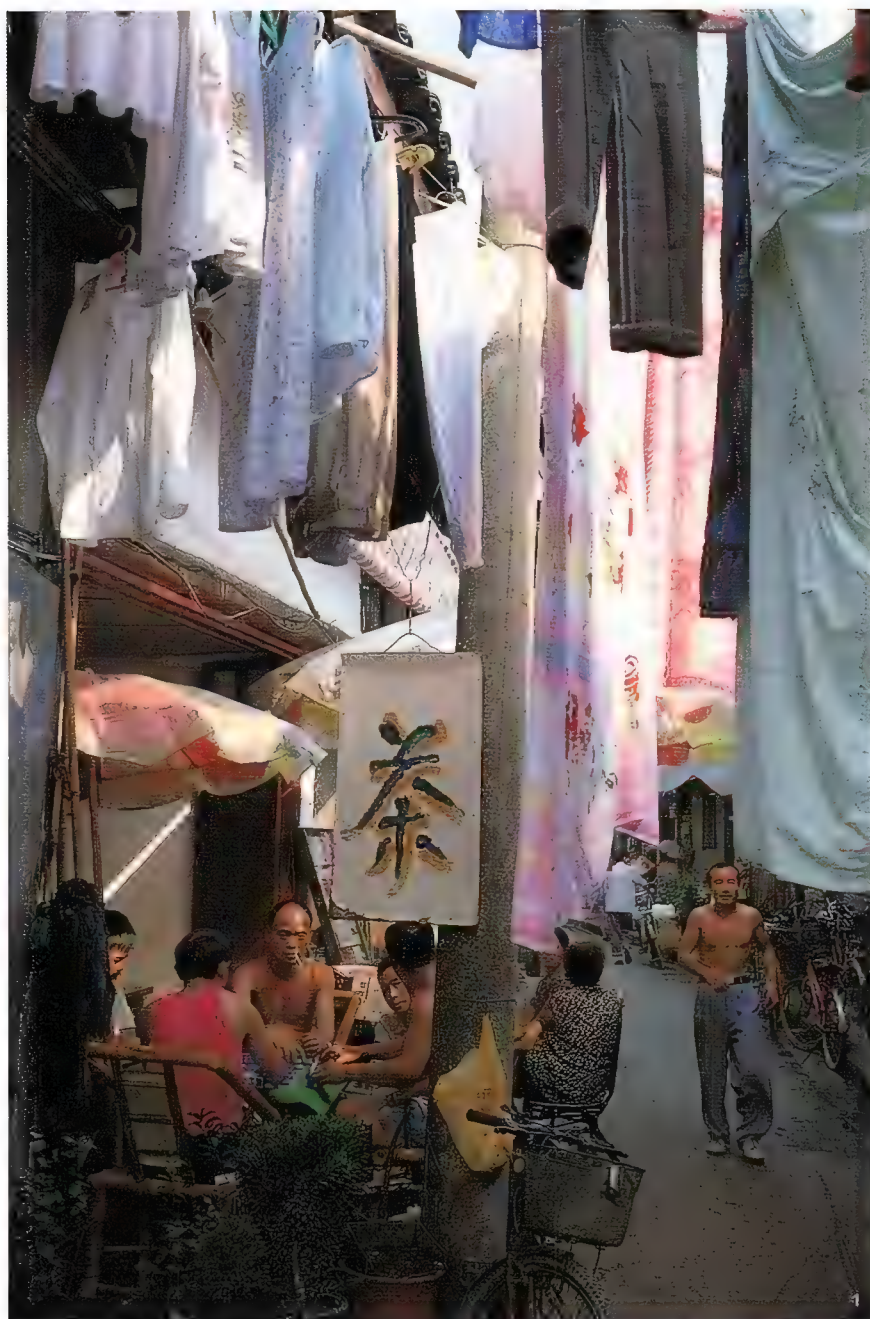
Teahouse vs Tea Parlour

The Chinese have many different names for tea places. The streets of Sichuan Province are filled with "tea shops", "tearooms", "tea farms", "tea stores" and "tea restaurants".

And thanks to the popular classical opera, Tea Parlour, most tea places are now known by the same name. Nevertheless, it's common to hear people in Sichuan refer tea parlours as "teahouses" since this term is more colloquial and sociable.



1. "Birds with the same feather flock together, people of like-mind form a teahouse group." Teahouse customers gather at the "Birds Teahouse" to share their experiences of raising birds.
2. Sichuan people like to play cards, and there are special teahouses for playing cards.
3. Almost all teahouse customers are classical opera fans. Folk opera troupes put on shows, and rely on teahouse customers to make a living.
4. Tea lovers "check in" on an early morning.



Fine teahouses in Sichuan's city (Chengdu)

Heming	Address: People's Park	Remark: sociable
Zhulin	Address: Wangjiang Park	Remark: sociable
Chayuan	Address: Binjiang Road	Remark: sociable
Baiguolin	Address: Pingan Bridge	Remark: lots of tea lovers with pet birds
Madojie	Address: Dongfeng East Road	Remark: Quyi performance every Sunday afternoon
Dacisi	Address: Madao Street, Jinjiang District	Remark: Sichuan opera every Friday afternoon
Yuelai	Address: Huaxingzheng Street	Remark: Sichuan opera every Saturday afternoon

tea". Those who have no desire to do any of the above come to the teahouse to drink "leisure tea".

It is common seeing five or six teahouses on just one street of Chengdu. There is storytelling performed at one teahouse, and there is Sichuan Opera put on at another. Customers can watch TV, play cards or mahjong. In the special teahouses for drinking "leisure tea", customers simply sit by the table and drink tea quietly, not speaking much.

In the teahouses of Sichuan, those drinking "leisure tea" are the people with a pure heart and few worldly desires. They stand aloof from worldly strife, and are satisfied with what they have and good at creating a free and easy atmosphere through drinking tea. They attain a lofty realm of mind, without desire and letting things take their own course. Such customers who fully understand the traditional tea culture are distinguished guests.

The three types of teahouse customers have three different realms of thought. If a teahouse customer can cultivate itself into a man without few desires, he will become a very lucky man.

The Last Cup of Tea

Since the late 1980s, I have become a member of the teahouse world. In the beginning I was only taking pictures ambitiously, aiming for fame and wealth. Now I get along with the tea drinkers as equals, rather than as a photographer or a "man seeking novelty" on a commanding position, and become one of them in terms of behavior and feelings.

Not long ago I went to a teahouse in Shou'an Town, Wenjiang, where I saw an event that I will never forget.


It was a busy farming season, so there were not many people at the fair, and flagstone street looked deserted. However the teahouses in Shou'an Street were still packed with people. All ten tables were occupied. Some were playing Sichuan cards



(also known as “long cards”, commonly seen in the rural areas of Sichuan Province); some were playing mahjong; and the others were drinking tea or chatting. White vapor was rising from boiling water in the huge kitchen. A short young waiter ran among teahouse customers, with a copper kettle and a stack of bowls in his hands. The teahouse was full of a strong smell of tobacco amidst the noise of local dialects. A customer’s *Garrulax canorus* (a kind of song bird) began singing, making the teahouse more vibrant. All of a sudden, I heard funeral music from afar. Soon afterwards, I saw a funeral procession of nearly 100 people coming. The procession stopped in front of the teahouse. A person took a table and a chair out of the teahouse and put it in the center of the street. Then he made a cup of hot tea and put the tea in front of the

memorial tablet of the deceased. All his family members fell to their knees in front of the table. It turned out that the deceased was a frequent customer of the teahouse. Before he was buried, he was served his last cup of tea in the world.

What is a teahouse customer? That

person is a typical example. The teahouse was a part of his life, and he cherished the teahouse until his death. Though my grandfather was passed away for many years, the time I went to the teahouse to drink morning tea with him is still fresh in my mind. I decided that at the Qingming Festival (the day when people pay respect to their passed away relatives and friends) next year, I shall make a cup of tea with for him. 

Translated by Kuang Peihua

1. Neighbors like to gather at the small teahouse on the small street to chat and to hang out.
2. The teahouse by the lake is the best place to taste tea and to appreciate scenery. Customers like a bustling teahouse, as well as a quite and elegant one.
3. Traditional Sichuan people think that there is no difference between life and after-life. If a teahouse customer dies, he will continue to drink tea in the other world. Before he is buried, his children and grandchildren will take him to the teahouse that he visited regularly in life, and present him his last cup of tea to continue his status as a teahouse customer.



landscapes

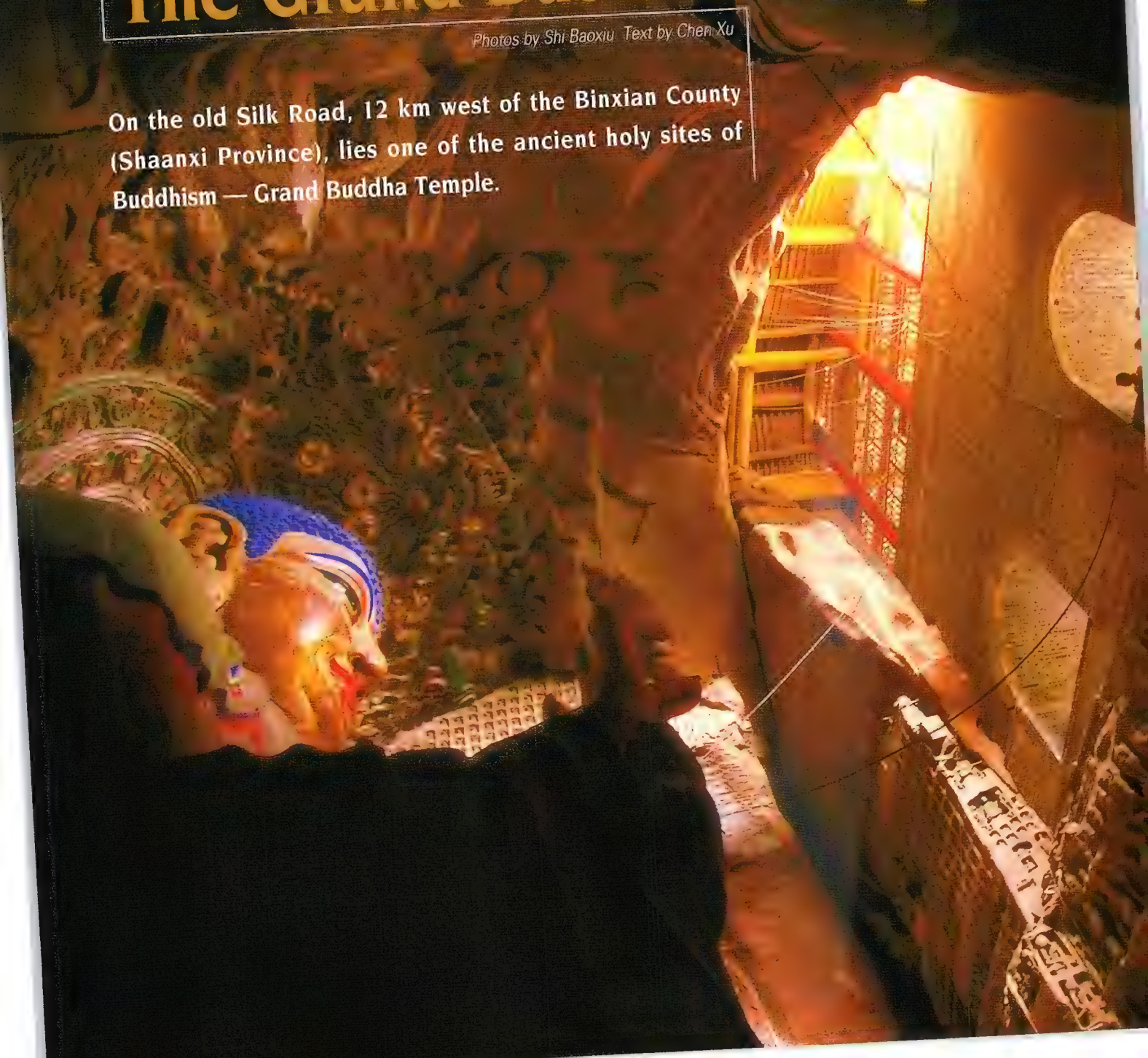


Through the Ages:

The Grand Buddha Temple

Photos by Shi Baoxiu Text by Chen Xu

On the old Silk Road, 12 km west of the Binxian County (Shaanxi Province), lies one of the ancient holy sites of Buddhism — Grand Buddha Temple.





The temple was built during the Tang Dynasty (599 — 649A.D.). Later, hundreds of Buddhist shrines and images were carved on the cliffs.

The Grandest Buddha on the Silk Road

In the Grotto of the Grand Buddha is a 20 m tall Amitabha figure, with a pair of 4.5 m long hands, 2 m long fingers and 50 cm long nails. Both the left and right walls stand a 4 m tall Bodhisattva figure. On the left is the guard Guanyin (Avalokitesvara), and on the right Dashizhi (Mahasthamaprapta, literally Bodhisattva of Wisdom and Mighty). Together with the Grand Buddha, the three are known as the Three Holies of the West. Distinct in expression, both the Bodhisattvas are dressed with precious cornets and magnificent tassels. Their faces look plump, mellow and suave, their attitudes are calm and elegant, and the lines of their costumes are smooth. Both figures represent the highest virtues of the west.

In front of the Grotto of the Grand Buddha, there is a five-storey guard building constructed of brick and wood. Originally a masterpiece of the Tang Dynasty, it was rebuilt. The building is 32 m tall. Above the central passage written three Chinese characters, ming jing tai, literally meaning "the Platform of the Clean Mirror", translated as the omniscient wisdom of Buddha. The building has three passages that lead to the

grotto, and it is completely wooden from the third floor and up. Each storey has doors and windows that can see the magnificent views.

Grotto Buddhist figures are the main area of research of China's ancient Buddhist arts. For a long time, research at home and abroad have been focused on the three large grottos Yungang, Longmen and Mogao, as well as some other medium-sized grottos, but little attention was paid to the grotto at the Temple of the Grand Buddha.

A Place of Pilgrimage

The Buddhist arts of the Tang Dynasty spread from Xi'an to western China along the Silk Road, and all the way eastward to the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese islands.

Many scholar monks from Japan at that time mostly gathered in Xi'an. Inspired by the Buddhist arts of Xi'an, the culture of the Tang Dynasty was the most advanced of all time. Binxian County was the first stop at the north exit of the eastern Silk Road, an area greatly influenced by the Xi'an cultures of the Tang Dynasty. The Buddhist arts preserved in the

1. The Temple of Grand Buddha is by the national highway from Xi'an to Lanzhou, which follows the old Silk Road (No. 312 National Highway). It is about 12 km from the city of Binxian County.
2. Entering from the lowest floor of the building, one has a bird's view of the Grand Buddha.
3. The enormous Grand Buddha makes a dramatic contrast with the visitors.
4. One can see the face and the upper body of the Grand Buddha from the building passage.





Grotto of the Grand Buddha were most likely the origins of the Buddhist arts during Japan's Nara Era and Heian Period.

Deserted Homes

Many of the grottos were the homes of the monks, and they have also been well preserved. Lived by generations of monks, about 90 of these grottos are seen on the eastern cliff, and they are the landmark of central northern China. Nowadays, the grottos are deserted by the Temple of the Grand Buddha.

The Temple also keeps more than 200

invaluable inscriptions, which are filled with historic figures, dating from the Tang and Song Dynasties. The Grand Buddha has tolerated for over 1,300 years mistreatment by both man and nature, yet it still sits here today, lofty and unmoved. On the eighth day of the third month in the Chinese Lunar year, a traditional gathering is held at the temple where tens of thousands of visitors and pilgrims come from all directions. Year after year, the expression on the face of the Grand Buddha remains at ease, watching over its worshippers with stateliness and kindness.



Translated by Huang Deyuan



1. The Bodhisattva on the right of the Grand Buddha looks reverent and submissive, staring humbly at the ground.
2. On the left of the main grotto are a group of ruined grottos.
3. Carvings of dancing fairies.

Travel Tips



Transportation : Either take the bus (Xian to Pingliang) at the Xian bus station to the Grand Buddha Temple for ¥15 yuan, or take the cab or three-wheeled motorcycle from Binxian for ¥5-10 yuan. The trip takes about 20 minutes.

Accommodation : There is no hotel at the Grand Buddha Temple, visitors need to return to Binxian before dark for accommodation. Binxian Hotel: right across from Binxian bus station, 63 Zhongshan Street, ¥38-76 yuan. Binxian Lodge: Binxian Main Street West, ¥38-82 yuan.

Admission : ¥12 yuan

Other places of interest :

Water Curtain Cave: About 2km from Big Buddha Temple, ¥3 yuan admission (man-made tourist attraction). Binzhou Pagoda: Opposite of Binxian Lodge and adjacent to the high school's outdoor field, this seven-storey building is a true beauty (free admission, a must-see).



About the writer:

Shi Youpeng, a native of Jinjiang, Fujian, is a teacher who writes in his spare time. His works have been seen in magazines such as Hong Kong Literature, Literary Century, and Hong Kong Writers. His published essay collection includes, "Talks Over Tea In the Wild" and "Naked Night Talks Over Tea".

A Tourist from Water

Article by Shi Youpeng

In the book "The Art of Travel", the famous British writer Alain de Botton pointed out that a place neither needs perilous cliffs nor dangerous rapids to have a magnificent and lyric presence. I'm sure that you would agree with him once you set foot on Venice.

"Diary in Venice" by Ah Cheng has some of my favorite quotes: "Even if a lane in Venice has a dead end, there is never a warning sign at the entrance. You simply walk in, and if you hit the end then you just turn around. There is no need to be disconcerted. Every lane has its unique features, some mysterious, some surprising — there may be an elegant garden behind the exquisite doors. Pity, visiting the same lane for the second time is always like a wild-goose-chase, for you will easily find yourself ending up in some place else, but if you do walk the same lane twice, it's like meeting an old lover."

Every lane is worth exploring indeed.

I went to Venice nine years ago, and stayed there for seven days. I was impressed by everything: gondolas, churches, St. Mark's Square, the island pigeons, and particularly, the Italians' clear-cut, chiseled features. Both men and women have slim and strong legs and full foreheads, and Italian girls have slender waists. In Italy, you feel a strong urge to sing love songs.

Several years ago, "National Geographic" selected 50 must-see places to visit in one's life. For its urban civilization on water, Venice was one. Every year, 12 million tourists come on a pilgrimage to its irresistible charm.

Italy looks like a boot-shaped peninsula on the map. Three sides of the country are embraced by the Mediterranean. At the tip of the boot are the snow-capped Alps. Southbound rivers flow in the vast and flat plain, crossing one another before they lose themselves in the Adriatic. Venice is built on small islands on the Adriatic coast. The streets are in fact canals, and the transport tools are gondola and waterbus.

A French philosopher Charles de Secondat (1689-1755) once claimed that water was the city's eternal and inseparable friend. The heavy waves and the city make a happy couple. This echoes with what the Roman historian Cassiodorus said — islands gave birth to monasteries; the celestial places for reverent but troubled hearts.

The beacon towers on the Venice islets have witnessed numerous sails passing by, as well as the world famous glass-making art on Murano. Venice was described in a 16th century record as "held affectionately by water, surrounded and embraced by it. Not wall, but water, is its protector."

On rainy days, Venice people would walk on wood-framed paths, one after another, holding umbrellas, and this is such a peculiar scene when seen from afar. Floods are usually inevitable in places with abundant water, and Venice is no exception. The city had only eight floods in 1925, but in 1992, the number jumped to 46. The most disastrous incident happened in November 1966. The city was two meters under water in an unprecedented flood, and unfortunately, churches and shops suffered from great damage.

Venice and water have locked in a love-hate relationship for heaven knows how many centuries, but worse still, the water level keeps on going up and the land down.

I haven't been back to Venice for many years. Whenever I miss its bridges, water and small lanes, I read the "Progress of Venice" by Zhang Yao. Then the scenes of ruined houses bathing in river, and numerous bridges came back to my mind. Zhang's book says that "many tourists come to Venice and crowd its dozen or more bridges in the city center, and thus, letting the bridges to control the rhythm of the city in an invisible manner. After a long trip, when you are exhausted, you can comfort yourself by saying, 'Just one more bridge'."

However, over 300 bridges are awaiting you.



Translated by Li Guoqing

The One and Only Tibetan Hotels

Photo & Article by Dianna

In autumn, many photographers go to Shangri-la in Yunnan or Daocheng in Sichuan to capture the golden autumn scenes. They are advised to remember the unique architectural culture in the areas inhabited by Tibetans. The easiest way to do this is to check out one of the typical Tibetan-style hotels, which is both an inexpensive and eye-opening experience.



THE SONGTSAM HOTEL — Dream of Shangri-la



2

Many places have local ethnic style hotels. The many beautiful hotels in Thailand and Indonesia inspired Baimadoje, the owner of the Songtsam Hotel, to build a Tibetan ethnic style hotel.

A Hybrid of Monastery and Home

This hotel was at one with the environment. It looked like both a monastery and a residence. It was clear that every pillar and every beam were not mass-produced, and they demonstrated superb workmanship. The chandelier, the ceiling decoration and the sofas all bore Tibetan-style patterns. The wall was decorated with many finely embroidered tangka (Tibetan style painting) tapestries, making me feel as if in a museum.

A strongly built young man with a cowboy-like hat and sports suit, who looked like a security guard, suddenly came down from the building. When I saw he was Tibetan, I told him that the place really had a strong Tibetan design. "This is the first time I have ever seen such a hotel."

"Thank you very much!" He turned out to be the manager.

Culture First

Baimadoje, who worked at China Central Television before, had often been abroad and seen many beautiful hotels of various ethnic traditions. This experience sparked his interest



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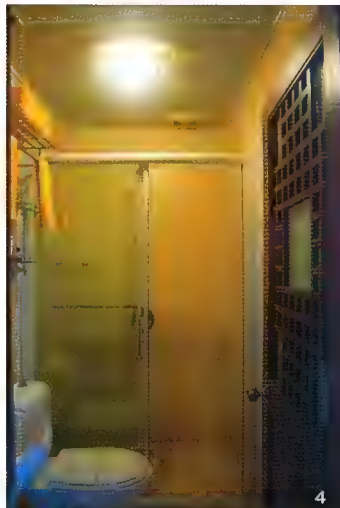
to preserve and promote Tibetan culture. As a result, he started, single-handedly, to build this unique hotel. The artisans were all local Tibetan architects.

Apart from ensuring the exterior of the hotel to be authentic, he also personally chose the interior decor and furniture. The valuable tangkas and antiques on display in the guestrooms and in the corridors were from his personal collection. He told me that he hoped his guests to be immersed into Tibetan culture through these decorations. Money was not the first and foremost concern for him. More importantly, he wanted to promote Tibetan culture.

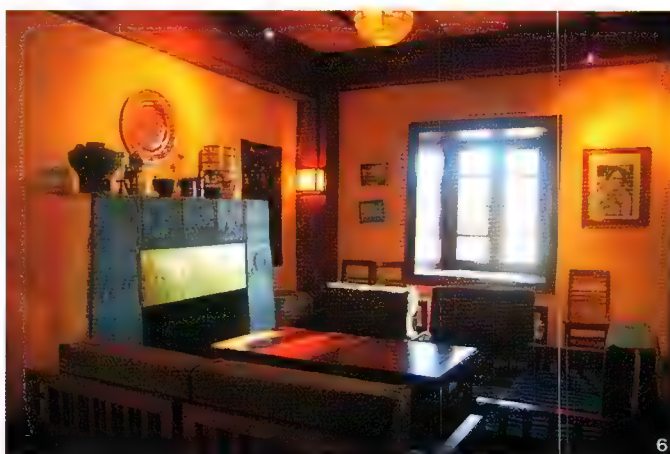
The hotel is built with many updated technologies. Every room is equipped with modern shower facilities that are unusual in Tibetan areas. There is a television set and also a telephone socket for connecting to the Internet in each room. The dining hall has two computers for guests to go online. The environment outside the hotel is also unique. From the balconies of the guestrooms are views of the snow mountains at a distance, the grasslands and lakes during the day and the starry sky in the evening. For the hotel guest, Shangri-la is all around.

Popular Culture

Because of the special charm of the location, the architectural layout and interior design, the hotel has nurtured a special affection for its guests. Not long ago, a group of Singapore tourists accidentally discovered the hotel while visiting the temple and immediately got in touch with Baimadoje, offering to discuss cooperative plans. They



4



6

also suggested that the hotel be developed into one with environmental protection theme. As they seemed to hold the same views, Baimadoje agreed to cooperate with them and has since then changed the original name of Songtsam Holiday Hotel into the present name: Songtsam Hotel.

He has also made changes in the interior design. When I was there, I saw a small library being added which was stocked with books on Tibetan culture. A theatre was also being built, where Tibetan artists would perform to disseminate their traditional art.

1. The Songtsam Hotel which looks like both a monastery and a residence.
2. Every detail of the decoration in the hotel has been meticulously chosen.
3. The lobby looks very "Tibetan".
4. Traditional style guestrooms are equipped with modern bathroom facilities.
5. In the bright guestrooms with balconies, tradition and modernity form a harmonious whole. (photo by the hotel)
6. The dining hall of the hotel is furnished by local craftsmanship and the pictures of the Tibetan region are taken by Mr. Baimadoje. The dining rooms serve Chinese, Western and Tibetan delicacies.

SONGTSAM HOTEL

At the foot of the hill west of Songtsam Forest Monastery, Shangri-la County, Yunnan Province (4 km from the county seat and 7 km from the airport)

(877) 828-8889

(887) 828-8887

songtsam@yahoo.com.cn

160-260 yuan (slack-busy seasons)

There are a total of 19 standard guestrooms and 2 suites. Among them, 12 standard guestrooms facing south have balconies overlooking Rumco Lake. All the telephone sockets can be hooked up to the Internet. Every room has a modern bathroom. The hotel is completed with indoor dining rooms and an outdoor restaurant, serving Chinese, Tibetan and Western food. Guests can surf the internet free of charge.

There are flights to Shangri-la from Kunming. Buses also travel there from Lijiang. Change to Bus No. 3 in the county seat to Songtsam Forest Monastery. The ride is about 15 minutes and the fare is one yuan.



5

FORBIDDEN CITY

In The Highlands



Having ridden on a long-distance bus for nine hours from Shangri-la, I found the Tibetan woman holding a placard of "Bumu Tibetan Guesthouse" a God-sent. She carried half of my luggage and asked me and a few other tourists, to follow her to a small path up the hill behind the bus station. Five minutes later we arrived at her home.

Luxurious Guestrooms

"Wow, are we dreaming? This is like the Forbidden City in Beijing!" We cried out in great surprise.

"This is the big room with ten beds. I charge 18 yuan per night per person," the hostess said.

There are several double rooms on the second floor. Here the doors, windows and walls all bear coloured paintings done by hand. Although they are less luxurious than the lobby downstairs, they still make fancy bedrooms. What's more, next to the rooms is a huge open terrace for drying clothes during the day and for enjoying the cool air and stargazing in the evening.

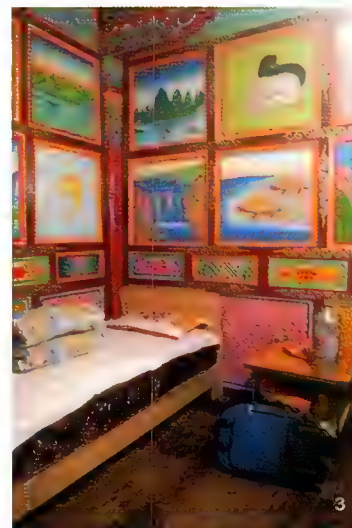


A Tibetan Mansion

The house owner told me that her house was worth 800,000 yuan. It took two years to build and decorate. All the pictures in the house were painted by local artists.

The Bumu Tibetan Guesthouse is a private house licensed to accommodate tourists. No wonder the exterior of house has a public shower room, which is very different from regular Tibetan's homes.

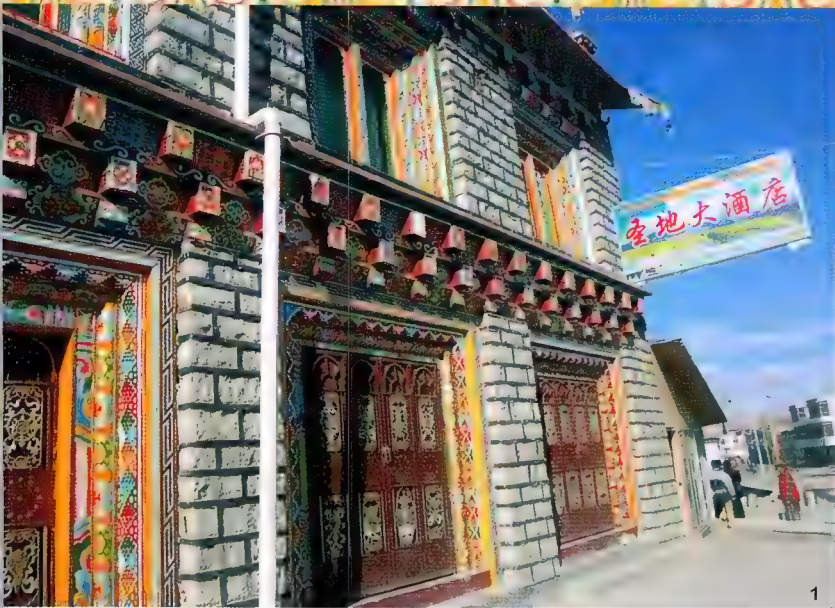
The house owner is used to hearing praise for her house from guests. She said that once a Hong Kong tour group arrived in Xiangcheng during the peak season and all the hotels were full. The guide visited her, but having seen the simple bathroom and shower room, the guide was worried that the Hong Kong tourists would not like the place. Unexpectedly, once they were in the room, the guests were truly attracted by the luxurious decorations. Though the facilities were simple and there were not enough beds, but they decided to stay even if they had to sleep on makeshift beds. Everyday after sightseeing, they hurriedly returned to the Tibetan home to enjoy the feeling of living in a typical Tibetan house.



1. A family hotel, the exterior of the Bumu Tibetan Guesthouse does not stand out in the village.
2. Visitors often compare the house to the Forbidden City.
3. The paintings in the double rooms reflect the daily life of Tibetans.

BUMU TIBETAN GUESTHOUSE

- 📍 Near the bus stop, Xiangcheng County, Sichuan
- ☎ (836) 582-6835
- 💰 18 yuan in a ten-bed room, 25 yuan for a double room
- 🚪 There are a total of 18 beds. The public shower room and toilet are separate from the guestrooms. On the terrace, people can dry their clothes. In the evening, guests can watch TV in the owner's living room.
- 🚌 From Shangri-la, there is a daily bus leaving at 7:30 am for Xiangcheng. The ride is nine hours and the fare is 41 yuan. It takes five minutes to walk from the back of the bus stop to the family hotel. Hotel staffs usually meet guests at the train station.



SHENGDI (THE HOLY LAND) — a Pleasant Surprise

When the bus arrived in Litang, known as the “highland city of China” at 4,014 m above sea level, most passengers immediately took the bus to Kangding. There were two Japanese backpackers took a chance on the Sichuan-Tibet shuttle bus for Batang, in order to try to get into Tibet. I, however, attracted by the “Tibetan flavor” of Litang, decided to spend a day there.

A Flea Pit

As I was in a hurry to sightseeing, I rented a room on the second floor of the building at the bus station right the way. The rate of 25 yuan seemed reasonable. I paid the money and dragged my luggage upstairs. What I saw, however, gave me a fright. The old lock on the door offered no security at all. The walls of the corridor and the door of the room as well as the bedding were so dirty that they looked gray. Even the air was suffocating. The worst part was the sputum, which made me nauseous. It was a truly a fleapit. Then I discovered there was no toilet and I had to visit the small, dark and dirty public toilet at the end of the parking lot in the bus station. I cursed myself for my carelessness.

At dusk, I returned to the bus station after sight-seeing. I discovered several Tibetan hotels and residential houses nearby. Out of curiosity I visited them. Some looked gruesome and simple, others were cleaner but lacked any special features. Only the Holy Land Hotel on the right of the station gave me a pleasant surprise. There were Tibetan style doors and windows and the guestrooms were interesting too. And the rate was too low to be reasonable. During the slack season, a bed in a double room costs no more than 25 yuan. It has clean and typical Tibetan bedding, in addition to a TV, electric quilt

and heater. Immediately I decided to check out of the hotel at the bus station and move into this one.

A Moving Night

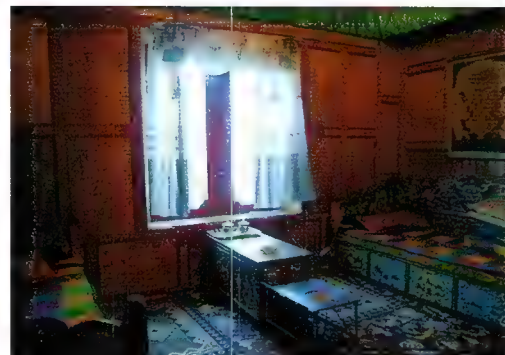
Happily, I dragged my heavy luggage into the Holy Land Hotel and shared my bad experience with the hostess, and she felt so sorry for me that she insisted to charge me ten yuan less and allow me to stay at the super-low rate of 15 yuan. And for that money, I stayed all alone in a double room!

Though I checked into a good hotel with very low rate, but I must be honest and say that the altitude of Litang is not something that every tourist can handle. Those who are likely to suffer from mountain sickness should not take the risk of an overnight stay. They are better off staying at some low-altitude places for the night. Kangding is only 2,560 m above sea level.

As night fell, the temperature began to drop. The wind carried snow and sand, stopping me from venturing out. I decided to have dinner at the hotel. After the meal, the waitress recommended a small bottle of wine from Heilongjiang. I took a sip and it was really very sweet. So I took the bottle to my room. To be on the safe side, when I am alone on a trip, I tend to drink very little. In the highlands, however, my only mountain sickness was over-excitement and insomnia. So I wanted to drink some wine to help me sleep. Before I could finish the bottle, the drink began to have an effect and my heart began to beat very fast. The air was dry and I seemed to have trouble breathing. With tremendous difficulty, I waited till daybreak. Had I not checked into a comfortable hotel, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

Translated by F. Huang

1. The gate of the Holy Land Hotel is rather ornate, out of proportion to the low room rate.
2. Even in the slack season, I was still surprised at the super-low rate for a double room.



HOLY LAND HOTEL

- Right side of Bus Station, Litang County, Sichuan
- (836) 532 1511
- 15-35 yuan per person. It is cheaper in the big room on the first floor. The double rooms on the second floor are slightly more expensive, but are equipped with television, heating. Neither room has its own toilet.
- No bathroom. The public toilet is on the second floor. The dining room is on the first floor.
- A bus leaves Xiangcheng at 7 am for Litang. The drive is about five hours and the fare is 65 yuan. On arrival, turn right, cross the road and you will see the hotel.



Zheng Yunfeng

Article by Hang Yanhong
Photos by Zheng Yunfeng

— The Man Who Saved the Three Gorges

He spent six years and all his savings, nearly one million yuan, to capture the images of the Three Gorges before it sank below the reservoir waters earlier this year.

He made his own wooden boat to photograph the splendor of the Three Gorges.

He stayed in cheap hotels, paying just ten yuan a night, and ate simple food.

Despite his hardships, he offered financial support to his three adopted children for their educations and helped them to find jobs in the cities.

He risked his life to study the towpaths and drew a complete map of ancient byways.

He laughs and cries at will and his lively voice seems to shake the very earth....

Fifteen years ago, Zheng Yunfeng began probably the most important work of his life — capturing the Yangtze and the Yellow River, the mother rivers of China, with his camera. He started from Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, and reached Bayankela Mountain on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. He planned to photograph the upper stretches of the rivers while he was still young enough to trudge up the hills, and then move downstream.

However, after several years, he ran out of money, so he returned to Xuzhou to seek fundings. He ran a photo studio and devoted himself to his work. After five years he had earned enough and couldn't wait to complete his mission at the sources of the Yangtze River.

In 1997, when he heard the news of the dam at the Three Gorges, he suddenly realized that he had to take pictures of the Three Gorges before the start of the project. He rushed to the site, travel-stained and exhausted after a long journey. As expected, thousands upon thousands of workers had assembled at Sandouping and the people in towns and villages along the Three Gorges had begun to relocate.

Suffering for a Labour of Love

Photographing the Three gorges poses many challenges and hardships because there are many steep mountains on the both sides.

At first Zheng Yunfeng lamented his helplessness before the mysterious mountains. The mountains rise steeply and many areas have no paths. So he had to hew his way through brambles and thorns and often scrambled up the mountains on all fours. At those times, he felt like giving up and returning to the comfort of his home and business. He chose to stay nonetheless, inspired by the hard work and self-denial of the local peasants.

He often wondered about the faint flashlights moving along the mountain paths of the Three Gorges in the evening. It turned out that it was the mountain inhabitants who carried water and some other daily necessities to their home from towns. Sometimes they would buy piglets from the market and carry them back home to raise. When they grow big enough, the animals are taken to the market for sale in exchange for daily necessities, such as oil, salt, soy sauce and vinegar.

Once he met an old man, more than 70 years old, on his way from Qingshi to the top of Bingshu Baojian Gorge to study the several-meter

wide split. The old man just bought a piglet and a hay cutter from the market. The cutter weighted about 70 kg. The old man really had a hard time climbing up the mountain path with the heavy machine. It was unimaginable. In cities old men of this age are all stay at home to enjoy their retired life.

Zheng asked the old man, "don't you have sons?"

"Yes, and my youngest son is 19 years old." The old man replied.

"Why did you ask them to carry these things?"

The old man said, "I have suffered too much hardships and I don't want them to repeat my life. Right now they are working in some other places to expand their horizons."

What the old man said encouraged Zheng Yunfeng a lot and he was ready to endure more hardships.



Photographing the beauty of Mount Wushan



For years he had lived on his boat

Climbing mountains became a daily chore. He climbed Shennu (Goddess) Peak a dozen times. After several years he knew the whole Three Gorges area from inside out: what type of weather was best

for certain pictures; when to climb the mountains to catch the different types of light, as well as who to ask for help.

Although Zheng is over sixty, he still talks like a young man, "when I stumbled over a rock or my clothes were ripped by brambles, I thought this as the nature's way of flirting with me."

He became so used to the hard life of the mountains of the Three Gorges that he cannot imagine returning to his urban life.

Finding Happiness in the Three Gorges

He pours out his grievances, "city life is too dreary. After three days away from the Three Gorges, I begin to feel irritable and restless. I cannot sleep and often lose my temper. I always feel like dust floating in the air. As soon as I get on the train to the Three Gorges I sleep well and when I get on the boat I smell the fresh air of the Three Gorges and feel relaxed and happy. I'm no longer the floating dust." He laughs aloud. "The local people live a simple life, but they are happy."

He suffers what is known as "modern city panic syndrome". No medicine can cure it.

My Home, My Boat

"I was here at the end of 1997. At that time I lived in Zhou Jun's house in Qingshi Town. He was 17 years old then and dropped out in the second year of his junior high because of financial problems. He had nothing to do so he helped me carry things. It was really inconvenient for me without a boat. There were many places that I could not go. I decided to make a boat in 1998, so I gave ten thousand yuan to Zhou Fangyao, Zhou Jun's father, to buy materials to make a boat for me. He finished making the boat in two months and then I got a license in Wushan County.

"Since then I have lived in the boat for several years when I am in the Three Gorges. Zhou's father and son come to help me. Before each journey, I first go Shennu Market to buy vegetables, rice, coal and clean water. When I run out of clean water I use alum to settle the river water. I occasionally stay in hostels to take a bath. I generally finish my film in about a month and then I'll go back to Xuzhou for a short rest. When I am not here, the Zhou's family can use the boat to earn money by transporting things."

Open Homes and Open Hearts

Zheng Yunfeng says the mountain, the water, and the openness and honesty of the people of the Three Gorges have changed his life.

"People from this area are really nice. They love other people and are honest and forthright, and they are so generous that they would not hesitate to give their very last livestock for their guests. Once when I lived in the house of Niu Xiande at the foot of the Shennu Peak I had a high fever. The old man worried a lot and went to the mountains to pick herbs for me in the middle of the night.

"I often go to Mount Taozi in Qutang Gorge because it is the best place to see Kuimen. There is a family on the mountain and I always live in their house when I go there. One winter my assistants and I

went there and it was very cold because of the rain. They let us stay in the big and better room while the five members of the family stayed together in one small room. To keep us warm, they gave us quilts that had been made for the wedding of their daughter. We were deeply moved."

He has many fond memories of such kindnesses. Each time he talks about them he is moved again.

Giving Back to the Three Gorges

Zheng Yunfeng has repaid the mountain people with his own generosity. He is so into their culture that he is regarded as a local.

Zheng often stayed in cheap hotels and ate local food. Why did he live such a frugal life? "I'm used to it. In this

way it is easy for me to contact the local people, and the money saved in the two months by staying in cheap hotels can support a child to go to school for one year."

Once a 15-year-old boy, Huang Zongjiang, carried things for him. He learned that his father was a teacher paid by the community and he enjoyed chatting with him.

He found a job for Zongjiang in Xuzhou, and then Zhou Jun and his sister. He first helped Zhou Jun's sister to complete junior high and after her graduation, both the brother and sister came to Xuzhou. He pulled all the strings with the departments of Xuzhou to accept the three children from the Three Gorges. They are now settled down in Xuzhou. Now they can earn a living and Zhou Jun's sister is studying at night school after work.

Breakdown on the Towpath

Among the pictures taken by Zheng Yunfeng, the most important are those of the towpaths. Pointing to these pictures, Zheng Yunfeng speaks with ease and assurance. The holes on the cliff, known as "nose of ox", were used to tie boats and these stakes were used for



The rock cracks and the trace of the towpaths

towropes so the trackers could take a short rest. On the towpaths people can see small pits, known as "bowls of water", which were made by the trackers. When they were thirsty they could scoop water out by hand....

Many pictures of this subject have been taken, but they cannot compare with the richness and power of those taken by Zheng Yunfeng. It seems that the towpaths traces on the rocks pierced the heart of Zheng Yunfeng. More than a hundred dangerous shoals from Yichang to Chongqing were covered with traces of the towpaths. Unable to contain his sadness, he cried for half an hour, clinging to a rock with traces of towpath in Daxi.

He knew that these traces and the ancient plank roads built along the cliffs would sink below the water forever. So he made up his mind to do a comprehensive study and connect all the traces of the towpaths along the Yangtze River to restore a complete and ancient towpath along the Yangtze River.

The Shock of the Old

Zheng Yunfeng was deeply immersed in the history of the Three Gorges.

A sailor's biggest challenge in the upper reaches of the Three Gorges was to run a sinking ship aground in order to avoid going under. People might die in the twinkling of an eye. Who knows how many people had died in the current or falling from the cliffs.

In the ferry at Badong, Zheng Yunfeng met an old boatman, Tan Bangwu, who was more than 90 years old. The old man told Zheng, "What do you think the river is? I say that it just like the two paths, one for living and one dying." Zheng was surprised to hear that. What the old man said was full of philosophical wisdom. The old man laid bare the truth of the Yangtze River with one remark.

Going downstream, a moment's carelessness might result in smashing into the reefs and killing the boatmen.

"I found a ruin of a temple at the entrance of Qutang Gorge. Long

ago when night fell. Monks would hang red lanterns at the entrance of the gorge to guide the way for ships. As soon as the ships entered the gorge, the monks began to recite scriptures loudly, beat bells and

drums, and pray for the boatmen and boost their courage.

"In the bend of the lower reaches in Badong there was once a Buddhist temple. The boatmen could relax once they passed the rapid current. Those boatmen who had died upstream would also arrive here. This Buddhist temple was their final destination. When their bodies were

found, the monks would chant scriptures to expiate their sins...."

Making a Mark on History

In the foreword of Zheng Yunfeng's album on the Yangtze River, Feng Jikai, a famous author, writes: "When I first saw the pictures of the Yangtze River taken by Zheng Yunfeng, I was moved very much because I really sensed the historical responsibility and cultural sentiment of these pictures. I have seldom experienced that in the materialistic society."

The historic responsibility compelled Zheng Yunfeng to go to the Three Gorges. Taking every opportunity, he devotes himself to the study of the Three Gorges. He is happy because he completed his mission. He has been working in the Three Gorges for six successive years and has recorded the fundamental changes of the Yangtze River, while becoming an important historical figure himself.

Before saying goodbye I ask if he has any regrets. He has many. He has seen and heard a lot, and taken many pictures of the Yangtze River, but he is still unsatisfied. If he could go back in time, he would take more pictures, get to know every family in the village...

Zheng is a tough man who has the tenderest heart. Combining iron-will and sensibility, perhaps he has the best gifts for a photographer.



Translated by Wang Zengfen



Postscript

The water level of the Three Gorges has reached 135 m and the turbulent current has disappeared.

A small wooden boat is floating slowly on the river. The man on the boat is different from the other boatmen. He was sitting there staring blankly, apparently looking for something or recalling something. He knows precisely all the towpaths under the water....

Time passes like the flow of water. This man is Zheng Yunfeng.

photography

Why I Love Alpine Flowers

Article and photos by Zhang Shaohong

1. The alpine flowers in Simuwa Province

A few years ago, when several friends and I were climbing a high mountain, one of my friends suddenly lay flat on the ground and stared at some small blue wild flowers with great excitement. I could not understand him then. Later, while hiking in the mountains, I felt tired and laid on the grass to rest. I looked around casually and saw some lively alpine orchids waving in the wind. Since then I have been in love with all sorts of flowers growing on high mountains.

2. Wild flowers at the mountain top of western Sichuan.



Most flowers growing in highly elevated areas are named individually, but they are all known collectively as the alpine flowers.

With an undulating topography and distinctive climate changes, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is home to a wide variety of flowers. Each has its unique nature and adaptability. They bloom bravely in areas between 1,000 and 1,500 m above sea level regardless of the climate.

The higher the elevation, the lower the temperature and the thinner the air. The desolate Qinghai-Tibet Plateau features volatile weather, strong winds and heavy snow. However, the alpine flowers there are very beautiful. Adapting to the inclement weather, the flowers reduce their nutritive bodies and enlarge their flowers. Thin air on the plateau let the ultraviolet rays penetrate deeply, giving alpine flowers remarkable bright colors.

Taking Pictures of Alpine Flowers

◆ **Equipment:** In order to take the best pictures possible, I would bring a micro-distance lens to enlarge small flowers, and to get a beautiful fuzzy background. I also would bring a 17-35-mm

wide-angle lens for taking pictures of snow-water streams and mountains at a distance (Pictures 1 and 2). The wide-angle lens can help enlarge visual and imaginative spaces. If it is possible, you should carry a tripod. Most alpine flowers are delicate, so I would select a tripod that can adjust to various settings.

Taking pictures on high mountains is a test of physical strength, so don't waste your energy on a tripod, just bring a medium-sized tripod will do.

◆ **Climate:** The best time to photograph alpine flowers is during the period of late June to July. Alpine flowers would look more refined;

gentle and lovely after a rain shower, because of the sparkling, crystal-clear water droplets. (Picture 3)

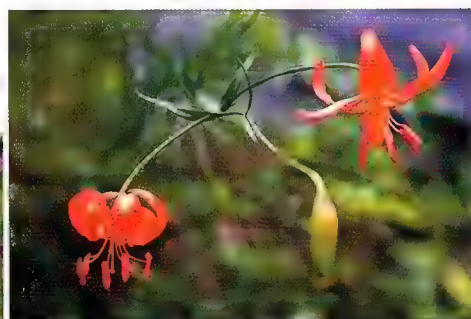
However, the small lines on the petals are easily influenced by the reflection of intense sunlight, making it

difficult to take pictures. In these circumstances, I would reduce the sunlight by using a milky transparent plastic cloth.

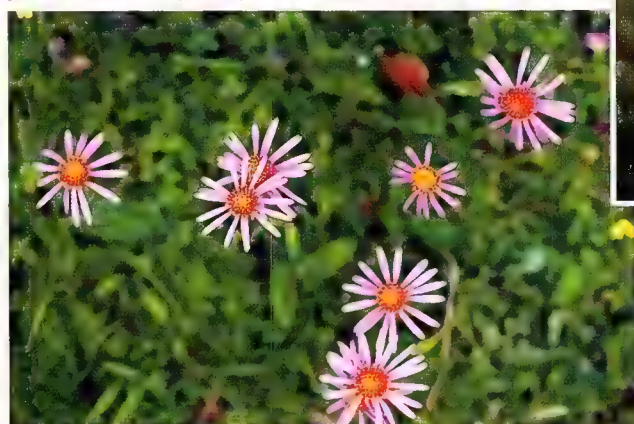
◆ **Focus:** The photographer needs to be very close to the flowers. A slight deviation in the focal distance will blur the picture. I would first focus on the stamen, then positioning upward and downward, or to the



3. The Primroses look exceptional after the rain.



4. This type of lily can only be found in the high mountain.



5. A type of *Aster tataricus*.

left or right slightly, until I find the best shooting angle. Then, I would regulate the focal distance by hand.

Nonetheless, when photographing two or more flowers, you should keep a balance between the lens and the flowers. Only this way can you take a clear picture of all flowers (Pictures 4 and 5) and avoid partial blurring.

◆ **Exposure:** Since alpine flowers have different colors, ranging from white to dark purple, and they grow on snow-covered mountains or rocks, I need to make different

6. A blue poppy



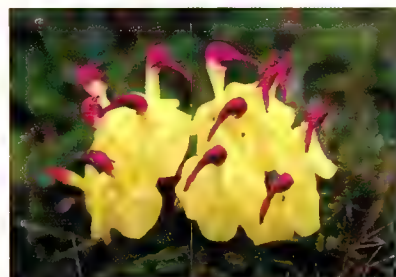
exposures to adapt to various situations. When shooting white or light-colored flowers, or those growing in the snow-covered areas, I would add one grade to the determined exposure; when shooting dark-colored flowers, I would lower it by one grade; and when I have no idea about exposure adjustment, I would shoot several pictures with different exposures (Pictures 5 to 7), and after they are developed, I would compare them to find the best one. This practice has never disappointed me. Sure, I may waste some film, but they are insignificant compared to the cost of travelling to the mountain.

Wild flowers rarely stand still. Use a high-speed shutter when they dance in the breeze.

Most of my pictures of alpine flowers were shot on the Four Girls Mountain (or Qionglai Mountain) and Gongga Mountain (a range of the Big Snow-covered Mountains) in western Sichuan Province.

Translation by Kuang Peihua

Shooting on the Plateau



CANON EOS 1N micro-distance EF100mm f/2.8 f2.8 AE 1/60s, 4,300 m above sea level, a cloudy day, 2:00 p.m.

Pedicularis (head-shaped)

This grows in the semi-damp grassy marshlands 3,500 m above sea level. Each flower has two colors and is shaped like a red-crowned crane. When waving in the wind, they look like couples quarreling.

Photographing tip: Although the flowers are small, their stamen has a faint scent. Only if you get close, can you smell the fragrance. But don't smell it too long or it will make you dizzy.

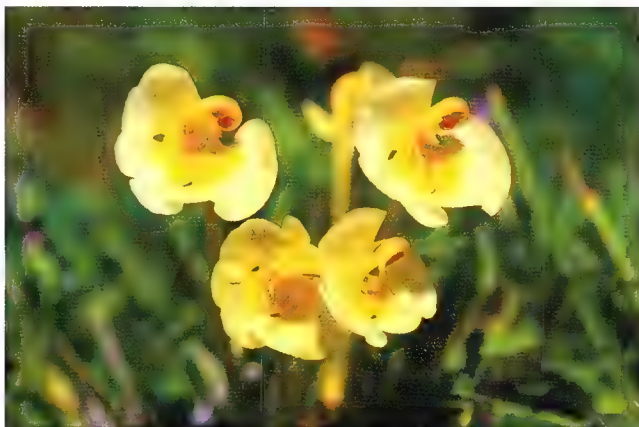


7. Alpine flowers have the most vibrant colors.

Pedicularis

The Pedicularis flower comes into full bloom in grassy marshlands on the plateau in summer. Red, white, blue, purple and yellow, they grow from the foot of a mountain all the way to the horizon. If you look closely, they are like groups of pink and yellow birds performing ballet in circles.

Photographing tip: As the Pedicularis can be as small as your thumb, you must lie on the wetland to look closely.

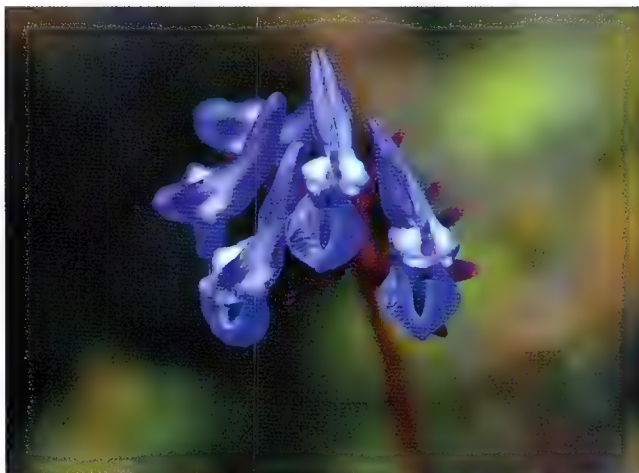


CANON EOS 1N Micro-distance EF100mm f/2.8 f2.8 AE 1/100s, 3,400 m above sea level, a fine day, 10:00 a.m.

Corydalis

Shaped like a cobra with the mouth open, the corydalis grows by stony banks and gravelly grassy marshlands. Purple and blue, the corydalis is not as poisonous as the cobra. Many types of Corydalis are Tibetan medicines for treating plague, fever and flu.

Photographing tip: The corydalis and many other alpine flowers are tiny. You cannot take good photographs unless you have examined them with great care. Since most alpine flowers grow by flow stony banks or by rocks, watch out for unstable rocks.



CANON EOS 1N micro-distance EF 100mm f/2.8 f2.8 AE 1/60s, 4,100 m above sea level, rainy day, 3:00 p.m.



CANON EOS 1N EF17-35mm f/2.8 f5.6 AE 1/60s, 3,800 m above sea level, a fine day, 10:30 a.m.

Lady'slipper Orchid

This flower looks like a weird animal with two hanging ears. It has a poisonous bag to catch mosquitoes. Though it is oddly shaped, but it belongs to a big family with many species, with bags in many sizes. Some are light yellow. Most grow under bushes or on grassy slopes. Its root and body can be used to treat swelling, rheumatism and strains.


Photographing tip: It comes into bloom from June to July. If you go to western Sichuan with an elevation of nearly 3,000 m, you will easily find them by the road.



CANON EOS 1N micro-distance EF100 mm f/2.8 f2.8 AE1/60s, 4,300 m above sea level, 5:00 p.m.

Blue Poppy

These flowers belong to the poppy family and grow in areas with an elevation of 3,200 to 4,800 m. Poppies have different varieties and colors, such as yellow, red and bluish purple. Blue poppy flowers are the prettiest, probably because they grow on high mountains.

Photographing tip: Usually alpine flowers grow on high mountains. Before you are used to the local conditions, you must take good care of yourself in order to prevent alpine illnesses. 

Light and Comfortable

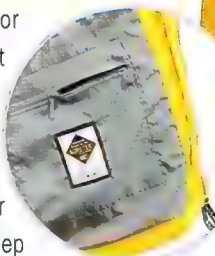
Article and Photos by Aylin

Travel Gears

While we are saying goodbye to the hot, stuffy and humid summer, it's time for us to welcome the cool and breezy autumn with various outdoor activities. During the transition period, travellers should pay particular attention to their travel gears, avoiding wrong clothes in a season of unpredictable weather. The latest Fall/ Winter outerwear collections made of 100% Waterproof, Windproof, and Breathable GORE-TEX® fabrics are your ideal all weather protection travel gear.



We sweat when we are doing outdoor activities. If your clothes are not breathable and your sweats cannot be evaporated out, you will feel very uncomfortable and get cold and other illnesses regardless of the outside temperature. Breathability of your outerwear, particularly footwear is crucial to keep you comfortable all the times. It is because foot sweats 1/4 cup of moisture even when you are at rest.



In the Comfortable Zone

Carrying the same "Guaranteed To Keep You Dry®" promise as GORE-TEX® outerwear, GORE-TEX® XCR® material is designed for extreme activities enduse with characteristics of extra 25% more breathable, that enhances perspiration to dissipate and keeps your body dry and comfortable. Hence, GORE-TEX® XCR® outerwear are suitable for rigorous exercise and long trips.



▲ PRO CAM-FIS OFFICER JACKET

- * Made of GORE-TEX®XCR® fabric; extremely breathable
- * 100% Waterproof, Windproof, and Breathable with "Guaranteed To Keep You Dry®" promise
- * Articulated elbow design
- * Detachable hood
- * WINDSTOPPER® fleece jacket can be zipped into the jacket for extra warmth
- * Colours: yellow, light gray, dark purple and dark blue.

◀ AIGLE AIGLE Waterproof GORE-TEX®XCR® Shoes (Advanced Low GTX)

- * Made with the latest GORE-TEX® XCR® materials
- * 100% Waterproof and extremely breathable
- * Out sole designed with lugs for ascents and slopes. With flex zone for free motion

Characteristics of GORE-TEX® fabric

The GORE-TEX® Membrane is laminated to high performance fabrics to create the durably waterproof, breathable, windproof GORE-TEX® laminates. A droplet of water is around 20,000 times larger than each pore in the GORE-TEX® membrane and therefore is too large to get through. The pores in the membrane are around 700 times larger than a water vapor molecule, therefore, water vapor (sweat) can escape easily.

GORE-TEX® outerwear has incorporated details such as GORE SEAM® technology, other waterproof closures, and tested in Gore's rain tower, which is specially designed to test waterproof clothing. The Gore Walking Simulator simulates the movement of a foot walking in water. All design prototypes are tested for waterproof qualities before being approved for mass production. GORE-TEX® outerwear is the only outerwear product with the exclusive GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU DRY® promise. No matter what the weather is doing - rain, snow flurries or an icy wind - you will feel warm and comfortable in your GORE-TEX® clothing.



Travelling Light

The new GORE-TEX® PACLITE® outerwear uses a protective layer on the membrane made of oleophobic substance and carbon that allows water vapor to pass through, while preventing oil-bearing contaminants to affect its waterproof performance. No separate lining is required in the item of clothing, which means that GORE-TEX® PACLITE® outerwear is lighter (less than 500g) and smaller to pack away.

▼ PROASION GORE-TEX® JACKET (MN/6673)



► PROASTON JACKET (MN/6653)

- * Made of 100% Waterproof, Windproof, and Breathable GORE-TEX® fabric
- * Extra zippers under armpits to enhance breathability



▲ AIGLE Joliette/Colbert Jacket

- * Made of latest generation of GORE-TEX® PACLITE® fabric
- * 100% Waterproof, Windproof, and Breathable with "Guaranteed To Keep You Dry®" promise
- * Weight less than 450 g
- * Uses a protective layer on the membrane made from an oil-hating substance and carbon to prevent contamination

Eikowada

Eikowada's new GORE-TEX® 3-layer jackets are 100% waterproof, windproof and very breathable. Combining both the Recco Rescue System (an international standard safety feature) and YKK waterproof zipper, they give you maximum security. Layer the jacket with the WINDSTOPPER® fleece can also give you extra insulation.



▲ PRO CAM-FIS FLAT TOP HAT (Left)

- * GORE-TEX® 2-Layer outdoor fisherman's hat
- * 100% Waterproof, Windproof and Breathable and reflects 97.5% UV rays
- * Colours: light gray, light blue and dark purple

AIGLE Ultra Light Waterproof Hat (GILI) (Right)

- * Made of GORE-TEX® PACLITE® fabric
- * 100% Waterproof, Windproof and Breathable and reflects 97.5% UV rays
- * Elegant design and goes well with GORE-TEX® jacket from AIGLE



◀ PRO CAM-FIS MEN'S WINKER SHOE

- * A famous German outdoor brand—LOWA (Active Traveller Series)
- * 100% Waterproof and Breathable with "Guaranteed To Keep You Dry®" promise
- * Colours: black, dark red and light yellow.

Distributor

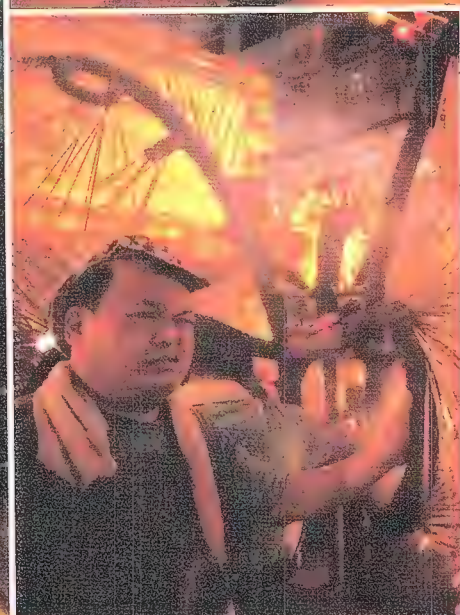
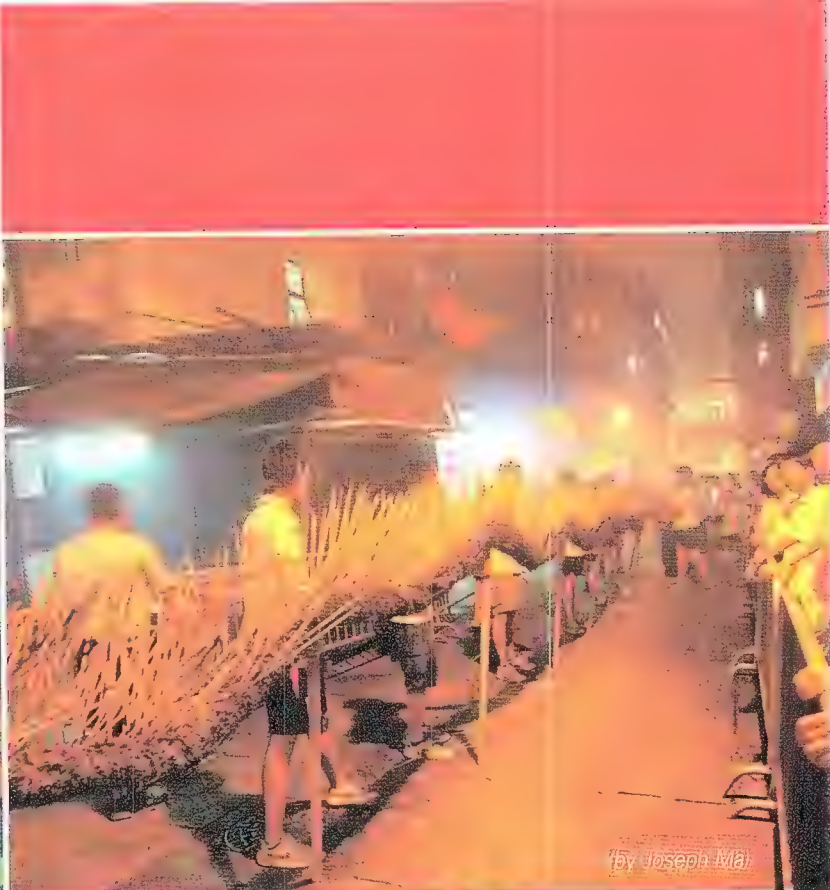
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www.eikowada.com
GORE-TEX® fabrics
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www.gore-tex.com
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www.proaston.com
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Customer Hotline 2942 2608
www.procam-fis.com.hk



Dragon on Fire — Let it burn

Article by Maggie Lam Photos by Chan Yat Nin





Was it a mere coincidence? Did the “fire dragon” drive SARS away from Asia last spring just like it “cured” the plague for this old village of HK a century ago? No one knows for certain, but no one dares to take chances either.



One thing is for sure — unless you have a high tolerance for burning incenses, this annual Fire Dragon Festival (ceremony of putting the evil serpent to sleep) will give you watery red eyes.

Devil in Disguise

In 1880, the once peaceful village in HK (Tai Hang) was suffered from a serious plague, taking away numerous lives of farmers and fishermen. Since the doctors at that time had no idea how to deal with such disaster, the villagers, who kept seeing their loved ones pass away mysteriously everyday, had gotten really desperate.

Many people turned to supernatural

healing, and some of them spent days and nights at the local temples to pray and to offer sacrifices. One day, an old man claimed that he got a vision in his dream from the God of Mercy. He explained that the serpent, which some villages had killed several weeks ago, was no ordinary reptile; it was the evil Serpent God. In order to get rid of the outbreak, they were to perform a fire dragon dance and to burn firecrackers in the annual Mid-Autumn Festival (around September).

Therefore, the people prepared a long skeleton of mud and straw as the dragon body, and put burning incenses all over it. Believed that the smell of incense would please God and bring blessings, they roamed every street of the village with the "fire dragon". After the

ceremony was over, they dumped the dragon into the sea, signifying the end of the epidemic.

"Made to Move" Dragon

Did the fire dragon dance actually drive away the disease? Or was it just the sulfur from the firecrackers that kill the virus? The truth was irreverent when the disease cleared up after the dance. In remembrance, the villagers have performed this fire dragon dance on every Mid-Autumn Festival for a consecutive of three nights ever since.

After more than a century, the village's farmlands were all turned into residential high-rises, and fishing harbor the new commercial centres. Nevertheless, the

tradition remains original, except the fire dragon has now grown to 220 ft long. Of course, the dragon dancers are no longer white hair men in worn-out rag; they are replaced with the new generation of hair-dying, tattoo-showing, Nike-wearing young adults.

Fueled with the new spirits, the old custom gained tremendous energy and the fire dragon seemed to come alive as it travelled every corner of the village. The concentrated smoke was like a tear bomb; it reddened your eyes and dried your throats, but the onlookers didn't seem to mind. The enthusiastic crowd cheered loudly as the dragon passed by, and many of them even ran along with the dragon in the summer heat.

Dragon in Training

The dragon dancers didn't need training, they just had to be fit enough to hold the


dragon up high and to keep up with guy ahead of him, at the same time swaying the dragon left, right, and center. To avoid smoke getting into their eyes, the dragon dancers were running incredibly fast, and they were all sweating in high spirit.

Thanks to SARS, this local custom was expanded into a city-wide celebration this year. Instead of just roaming around the small local town, the dragon roared all the way to the Victorian Park (one of the longest established park in HK) nearby, where over a hundred thousand people gathered on the night of Mid-Autumn Festival. Before they entered the park though, the dragon had to be replaced with new "scales" (incenses) for extra blessing. Since the used incenses were considered blessed and would bring good luck, everyone was eager to bring some home.

Although the Fire Dragon Dance is merely a three hours ceremony, you'd better come



prepared if you are thinking about visiting next year. Be sure to bring a wet towel, and leave your fancy clothes at home.

Don't miss the next dragon dance, for a blessed incense may do magic. 



1. It is believed that the annual fire dragon dance can drive away plagues. The "scales" of the dragon are burning incenses, for the smell would please God and bring blessings. After roaming every street, the dragon is to be thrown into the sea, signifying the end of the epidemic.
2. What is Mid-Autumn Festival without lanterns? (by Joseph Ma)
3. This was no campfire. The villagers were burning the incenses before sticking them onto the dragon. Since the concentrated smoke acted like a tear bomb, be sure to bring a wet towel.
4. Everyone was eager to bring some blessed incenses home. (by Joseph Ma)
5. Children marveled at the huge lanterns.
6. Make way for the 220 ft Fire dragon! Visitors should be careful not to get in the way of the dragon, for the dragon swayed all over the streets.

Is HK LOVIN' it?

Article by Maggie Lam Photos by Joseph Ma

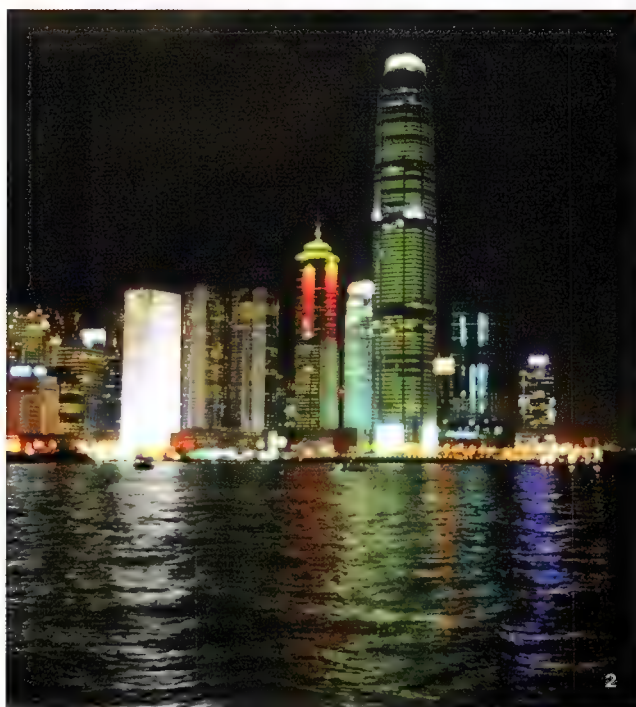
STRATO-FANTASIA:

What is it? 15 min of promotional laser and video presentation on HK tourism every night for one month

How much did it cost? Production: 5 million HKD (~670,000 USD); Advertisement: 140 million HKD (~20 million USD)

What did it accomplish? Boosted HK tourism by almost one-tenth compared to the same period last year

But... Why isn't HK lovin' it?



TV, radio, billboard... no one could seem to escape from the Tourism Board's slogan "HK — live it, love it" for the whole summer. This admission-free laser show, Strato-Fantasia, was held at the Victoria harbour (right in front of the HK Convention and Exhibition Centre) every night during the period of mid-August to mid-September. It aimed to promote local tourism for the summer before the kids were back to school.

Combining music, laser, fireworks and special effects, the colourful video was displayed on the 20 m-diameter globe that sat on the deck of a ship parked near the harbour. The video clip showed all the local major tourist attractions, as well as the multicultural happenings that were cramped on this tiny island. From the newest modern architects to the oldest relics and customs, such as the 88-storey IFC (International Financial Center), the world's largest outdoor bronze Buddha, old fishing village, classical opera performance and various Heritage Trails, these images captured the charm of HK, proving it to be much more than just a tax-free giant shopping mall.

The show lived up to the expectation of the tourism board, for the harbour was packed with visitors the whole month. Yet interestingly enough, many locals were less than impressed. Their bored

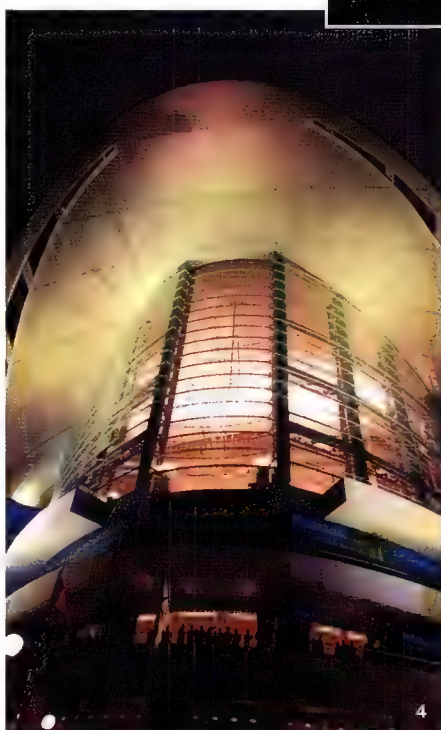
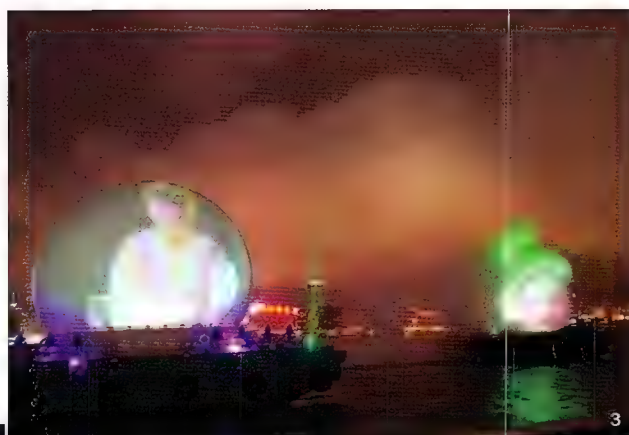
expressions seemed to suggest that, a big ball reflecting laser beam of sightseeing cliché was nothing to be excited about, and most definitely, nothing worth paying the astronomical advertisement fee for.

But not for the mainlanders. Mandarin (official dialogue in mainland) speakers instead of Cantonese (local dialogue) speakers predominated the harbour. The mainlanders were more than willing to travel thousands of miles to share this 15 min glory, and they supported the show all the way to the end.

Unfortunately, the finale of Strato-fantasia had to end on a very rainy night. No rain gear could keep you dry, and everyone there was soaked from inside out. To make matter worse, layers upon layers of opened umbrellas did nothing but obscure the view. And if the locals weren't thoroughly annoyed yet, the "plain" fireworks accompanied the presentation certainly had drove them over the edge. Spoiled by many previous grand fireworks, they didn't bother to hide their contempt for the "shamefully simple" entertainment. Most went home feeling cheated for the trip, and were furious at the government for this expensive promotion during the economy downturn.

The mainlanders, on the other hand, were much more forgiving. It seemed that nothing could dampen their cheerful spirit or spoil their good mood. Perhaps they were all under the spell of HK's night scenery.

Was it because they were in awe



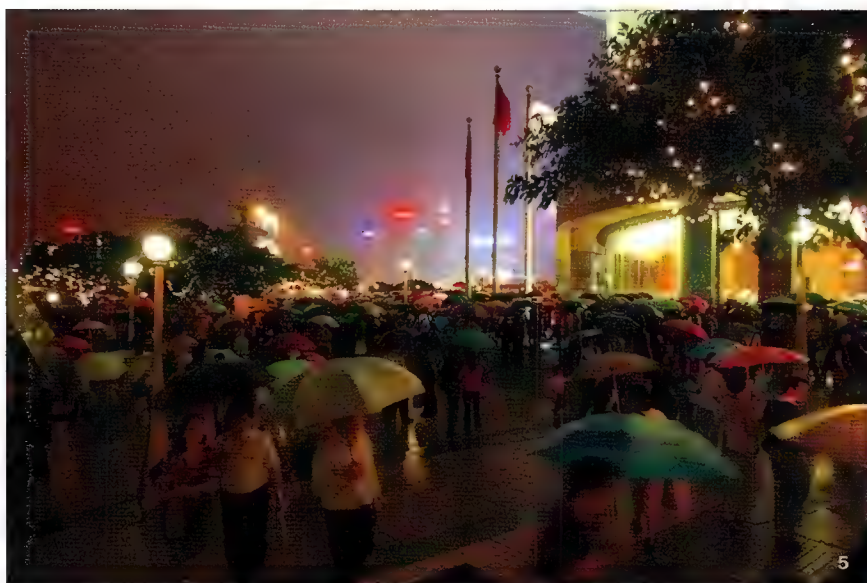
of the magnificent HK Convention and Exhibition Center? Was it the stunning harbour? Were they bedazzled by the neon-lighted billboards? Did they find the faint salty scent from the sea calming? Were they busy admiring the skyscrapers? It didn't matter.

Undaunted by the stormy weather, many rain-drenched visitors insisted to have their pictures taken in front of the Golden Bauhinia status, and their thrilled expression were contagious.

HK? They are lovin' it!



1. Strato-Fantasia was held at the Victoria harbour every night during the period of mid-august to mid-September.
2. Visitors were under the spell of HK's night scenery.
3. The presentation captured the charm of HK, proving it to be much more than just a tax-free giant shopping mall.
4. HK Convention and Exhibition Center
5. The rain wasn't the only thing the locals were annoyed about.
6. Many rain-drenched visitors insisted to have their pictures taken in front of the Golden Bauhinia status.



BITS AND PIECES OF SHANGHAI

Shanghai is located in the south of the lowest reaches of the Yangtze River. Ever since Shanghai opened its port for foreign trade, its watercourse has become busy. Nowadays, It is a densely populated city that attracts people from many provinces and countries.

Having a population of over 13.2 million, of which about two-third live in the urban areas, Shanghai occupies an area of 75,800 km², consisting of 18 districts and 1 county.

GETTING THERE

Full of ambition, Shanghai manifests itself as a world-class metropolis. It has a three-dimensional traffic network that includes highways, roads and metro. Transportation is becoming more sophisticated and advanced; you can take any planes, trains, vehicles, and ships to all provinces and cities in China as well as to major foreign countries.

The modern Lupu Bridge (by Joseph Ma)



BY AIR

Shanghai has two airports, namely the Hongqiao International Airport (west of the city centre, 18 km away from The Bund) and the new Pudong International Airport (50 km away from The Bund). Ever since the opening of Pudong International Airport, Hongqiao International Airport has become an airport for domestic flights only. On the other hand, Pudong International Airport is responsible for all the international flights, as well as flights that fly to HK, Macau, and southern region of China, such as Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Make sure you double-check your airport destination the next time you visit Shanghai.

Hongqiao International Airport

Only half an hour away from the city centre, Hongqiao International Airport is built on one of the largest regions in Shanghai. It has regular flights to all the major cities in China. There is a plane taking off to Beijing every hour, and there is even one leaving every fifteen minutes during peak hour (8-11am).

Pudong International Airport

About an hour away from the city centre, Pudong International Airport

is the place where you can take international flights to New York, L.A., San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver, Paris and other major European countries.

It also handles domestic flights that fly to the southern region: there are a total of eleven flights to HK daily; there are flights to Guangzhou and Shenzhen every hour (every half an hour at peak hour); and the flights to Beijing are every two hours.

What a Deal!

As the airlines in China are transforming themselves into share-holding enterprises, they have become very competitive. They offer discount tickets to attract customers to travel at low season. You may get tickets that are half the regular price!

Do your homework, pay attention to airlines promotion and ask around. Some airlines would even offer tickets delivery service for \$10 RMB. Customers can simply order what they want by phone and then wait for the delivery. However, do make sure you pick a reliable airline agency to avoid fraud.

Shanghai Eastern Airlines Booking Office

1766, Zhongshan Bei Road 24hr. hotlines: 5204-3210, 5204-3212



The foyer of the Pudong International Airport (by Joseph Ma)

Before You Take Off

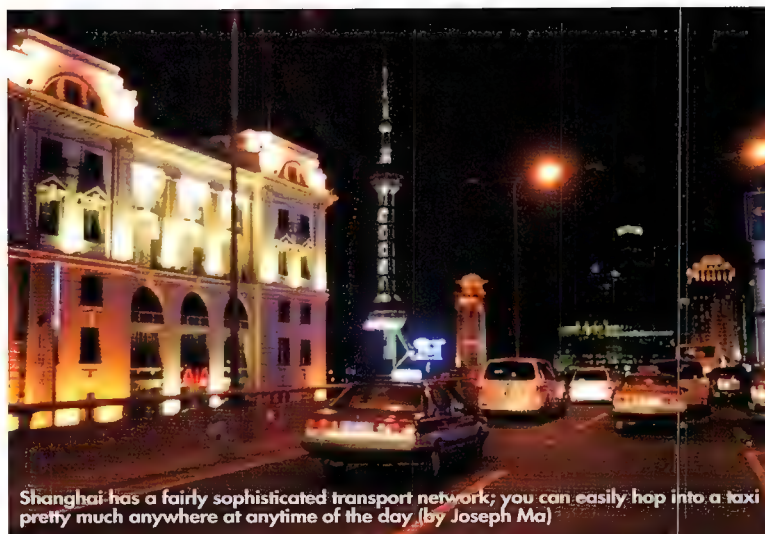
Don't forget the Airport Construction Fee of \$90 RMB!

Airlines	Address	Tel	Fax
Eastern Airlines (www.shanghai-air.com)	200 Yanan Xi Rd.	6247 5953	—
Shanghai Airlines	212 Jiangning Rd.	6255 8888	6255 8989
Air China	600 Huashan Rd.	6269 2999	6269 2000
Dragonair	Unit 2103 Shanghai Square Office Tower, 138 Huaihai Zhong Rd.	6375 6375	6375 6700
Singapore Airlines	Suite 209, East Wing, Shanghai Centre, 1376 Nanjing Xi Rd.	6289 1000	6289 2000
Northwest Airlines	Room 207, East Tower, Shanghai Centre, 1376 Nanjing Xi Rd.	6279 8088	—
United Airlines	Room 204, West Tower, Shanghai Centre, 1376 Nanjing Xi Rd.	6279 8009	6279 8853
Air Canada	Unit 702, Central Plaza, 227 Huangpi Bei Rd.	6375 8899	6375 8886
Virgin Atlantic	Suite 221, 12 Zhongshan Dong Yi Rd.	5353 4600	6323 8217

GETTING AROUND

From 1994 up to now, the first, second and third metro lines (Line 1, Line 2 and the Pearl Line) have been constructed. Today Shanghai has the longest mileage of Metro transportation in China.

The Huangpu River is the most important river in Shanghai, for it separates the old town Puxi (west of the Huangpu River) and the new area Pudong (east of the Huangpu River). There are five bridges and three tunnels that connect the two areas, and the public transportation lines in both Pudong and Puxi extend to all directions. A network of the public transportation has more than 1, 100 lines throughout the city.



Shanghai has a fairly sophisticated transport network; you can easily hop into a taxi pretty much anywhere at anytime of the day (by Joseph Ma)



Shanghai Metro (by Chen Haiwen)

Taxi

\$10 RMB for the first 3 km, \$2/km for the next 7 km, and \$3/km after that.

Da Zhong Taxi	6258 1688
Shanghai Qiangsheng	6258 0000
Jingjiang Taxi	6416 9898
Bashi Taxi	6445 8484
Zhenghua Taxi	6255 0808, 6275 8800

ONE DAY LOCAL TOUR (PERFECT FOR BACKPACKERS!)

Shanghai Special Tourist Lines

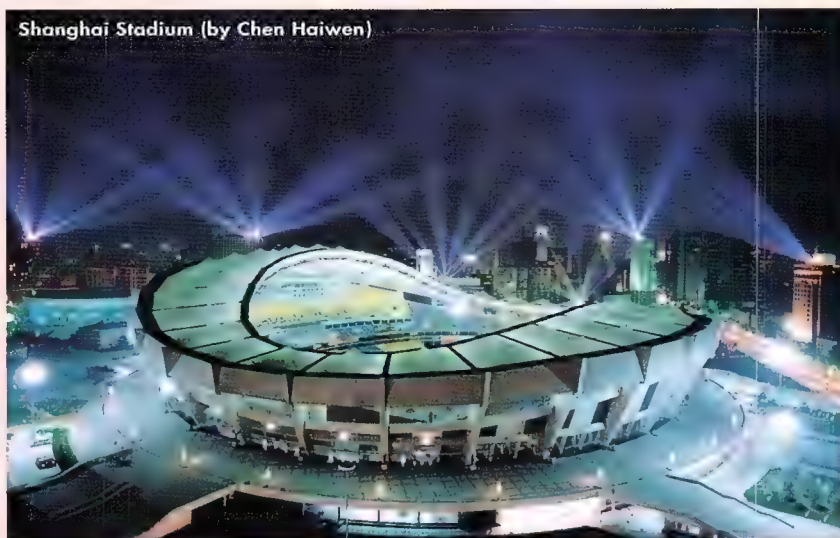
Organized by the municipal government, this is a perfect one-day local tour. It offers ten special bus lines, each links to different scenic spots, reaching different directions of Shanghai, such as the Songjiang District, Qingpu District, Pudong New Area and the city centre. There is guiding commentary along the way, and the tour will offer discount entrance tickets.

Address of Bus Centre: outside of Gate 12, Lift 5, Shanghai Stadium, 666, Tianhongqiao Road.

Tel: (86) 21-6456-5555, 6426-6455

Means of communication: Take the Metro to "Shanghai Stadium"*, or take one of the public buses: 89, 42, 50 or 926

*Shanghai Stadium is a giant sports facility. Covering a floor area of 190,000 m², the stadium has a radius of 300 m. The saddle-shaped stadium has a total construction space of 150,000 m² and it can seat 80,000 audiences.



Shanghai Stadium (by Chen Haiwen)



Located at Nanjing Road, Peace Hotel towers (centre) over The Bund (by Joseph Ma)

ACCOMMODATION

There are numerous luxurious hotels in Shanghai. In order to save, try to reserve your room through internet or look for discount from your local travel agency in advance. Find out a bit more about your travel destination before settling.

Where are you going to spend most of your time? The Bund? Nanjing Dong Road shopping street? The new pubs at Xintiandi? The financial district at Pudong? In addition, would you like to stay at a modern luxurious hotel? Or would you like to experience the retro-charm of residences built in the 20s?

The most popular places in Shanghai are Huangpu, Luwan, Jing'an, Xuhui and Pudong New Area.

Huangpu The Bund, Nanjing Dong Road, shopping streets, People's square, Shanghai Opera, Shanghai Museum, Cheng Huang Temple, Yu Garden.

Peace Hotel ★★★★★

Established over a century ago, the penthouse of this five-star hotel overlooks the Huangpu district, and it serves all sorts of authentic Shanghai food.

20 Nanjing Dong Road Tel: (86-21) 6321 6888 Fax: (86-21) 6329 0300

Guesthouse Central Hotel Shanghai ★★★★★

Located right at the commercial centre, near Nanjing Road 555, Jiujiang Road

Tel: (86-21) 5396 5000 Fax: (86-21) 5396 5188

Luwan District Pubs and clubs at Xintiandi, Former Residence of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and antique markets on Dongtai Road.

Shanghai 88 Xintiandi ★★★★★

380 Huang Pinan Road, Tel: (86-21) 5383 8833, Fax: (86-21) 5383 8877

Rui Jin Guesthouse ★★★★★

This hotel is known for its elegant architectures and refined gardens, and it has served many top national and international officials.

118, Rui Jin Er Road, Tel: (86-21) 6472 5222, Fax: (86-21) 6473 2277

Jing'an District Paramount Entertainment Complex, Jing'an Temple

Jing An Hilton ★★★★★

250, Hua Shan Road, Tel: (86-21) 6248 0000, Fax: (86-21) 6248 3848

Jing An Hotel ★★★★★

370, Huashan Road, Tel: (86-21) 6248 1888, Fax: (86-21) 6248 2657

Xuhui District Shanghai Gynasium, Longhua Temple

Hua Ting Hotel & Towers Shanghai ★★★★★

Since its location is a bit away from city centre, its price is generally lower than other five-star hotels.

1200, Cao Xi Bei Road, Tel: (8621) 6439 1000, Fax: (8621) 6255 0830

Regal Shanghai East Asia Hotel ★★★★★

Hengshan Road, Tel: (86-21) 6415 5588, Fax: (86-21) 6445 8899

Pudong New Area Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jinmao Tower's 88th floor viewing deck, Shanghai International Convention Centre

Jin Mao Grand Hyatt Hotel ★★★★★

The tallest hotel in the world. 88 Central Boulevard, Pudong

Tel: (86-21) 5049 1234, Fax: (86-21) 5049 1111

Pudong Shangri-La ★★★★★

33 Fu Cheng Road, Tel: (86-21) 6882 8888, Fax: (86-21) 6882 6688



Jin Mao Grand Hyatt Hotel (right) is the tallest hotel in the world (by Xie Guanghui)



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Company Name: _____

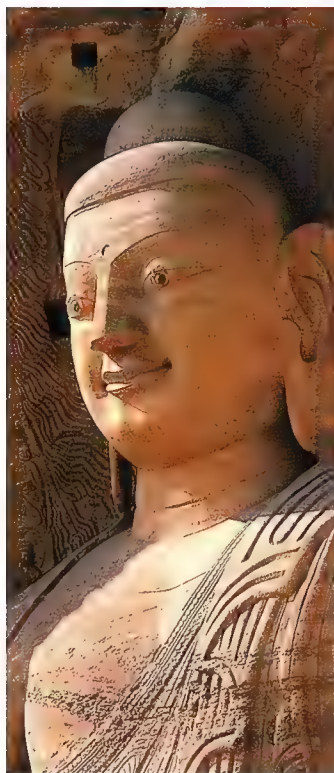
Company Address: _____

Major Type of Business (please specify): _____

(tick one): ☐ Import ☐ Export ☐ Wholesale ☐ Retail ☐ Agent ☐ Manufacturing

Signature: _____ Business Tel: _____ Fax: _____

OCTOBER



Nov 16

Lord Buddha, also known as the Shakyamuni Buddha (the Enlightened One), is the historical Buddha who walked the paths of India approximately 2500 years ago and from whom all the various lineages of Buddhism originated.

Born as a prince, Lord Buddha was willing to leave his family behind and to take the path of sainthood, in order to relieve all human's sufferings. He manifested the 12 deeds, brought enlightenments to the world and all these were depicted in the Memorial Shrine Temple.

In Tibet, **the day Lord Buddha descended** from Heaven (Lhabab Duechen) is to be celebrated every year.

(http://www.tibet.to/calendar/calendar_e.htm)

Nov 1 - 5

This centuries-old classical opera has another name, Huangmei Opera, and it was formed in the 18th century in central China's Province, but it didn't fully mature until it was brought to the east side in the early 20th century. China's eastern city (Anqing, Anhui Province), is ready to take the country by storm with another wave of performances. The upcoming **Huangmei Opera Festival** in early November will be the third of its kind held by the municipal government. Nearly 10 troupes will perform during the event, staging plays that were written in the past five years.

(<http://www.chinavoc.com/arts/performance/opera.htm>)



until Nov 19

Hosted by Taiwan's Hualien County Government, this **stone arts festival** features various exhibitions, including domestic stone sculptures, local stone handicrafts, stone lion, and ancient jade.

To make this festival even more interesting, Taiwan has invited Stone Sculpture Association and National Art Museum to join the exhibition. This is a good chance to explore Taiwan's "Homeland of Stone".

(<http://202.39.225.133/e2003fes/stone/hualien1.htm>)

until mid Dec

Featuring 240 pieces of cultural heritage from the four largest museums in China, "**300 Years of the Mountain Resort - Chengde** (northeast of Beijing)" is the first large-scale exhibition held in the National Museum since it was founded in February.

Covering 5.64 km², this resort was placed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994. It is a vast complex of palaces and administrative and ceremonial buildings. You'll find temples of three different traditional styles (Han, Mongolian and Hui), as well as Tibetan architectural and imperial gardens, all subtly blend into a landscape of lakes, pasture land and forests.

Chinese and English audio guides are provided, and five lectures will be given during the exhibition.

(<http://www.cnto.org/chengde.asp>)



until mid Nov

In mid-September, numerous people joined in the countdown until brilliant fireworks shot into the sky, announcing the beginning of this year's two-month **Shichahai (the lake where it lies within the heart of Beijing) Tourism Festival**. From hot new stars to fashion show models, and from pop songs to Peking opera, all of the performances are to bring the spot light to the lake of Shichahai.

Shichahai is the only scenic spot in the capital boasting wide expanses of water. Don't miss out!

(<http://www.bjxch.gov.cn/en/tourism/shishahai.htm>)

(Nov 1-30)

Ever since the first Asian Windsurfing Tour, the Penghu Islands of Taiwan has attracted the world's top windsurfers. **The Penghu Sailability Cobia Tourism Festival** will be exhibitions of handicrafts, farm and fishery products, Cobia cuisine show, international sailability competition, art banquet, and historic sites tour.

(<http://202.39.225.133/e2003fes/pengfu/pu2.htm>)



Feature Story: Behind-the-wheels Backpacker

Sick of waiting in line for public transportation? Don't want to bother with the complicated bus and train schedules? Why don't you get behind the wheels yourself and be your own captain for your next journey?

People in the western countries have been travelling around in their RV (Recreation Vehicle), vans, and SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle) for years, and yes, you can do the same in China as well! Our reporter selected a few easy-to-follow routes with the best sceneries, such as the western Yue coast



line, sea island, and southern island. Check out the hot springs and palm trees on the way. Go ahead, follow the highway and see where it will lead you.

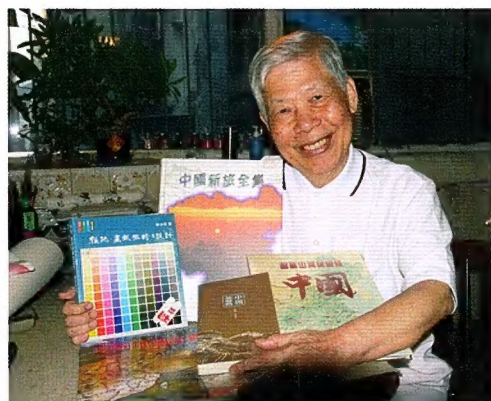
City Snaps: Shashihai Lake — The Heart of Beijing

As ancient as Beijing itself, this lake (Shashihai) has kept its history and tradition. Even though the lake is surrounded by Beijing's palaces and temples, but its tranquility has never been bothered by political conflicts or wars. Nowadays, bars and foreign restaurants are built around Shashihai for its stunning charm, and the lake becomes the new hangout place for the trendy crowd.



Profile: Our Very First Editor — Mr. Yeung

Even though Mr. Yeung is well over 80, but he is still zealous of everything about travelling. He once exhausted himself so badly from editing traveling guides that he needed to be hospitalized. The minute before he was taken to the operation table, he was giving out travelling books to the nurses and doctors, urging them not to miss out on the magnificent tourist attractions. During his recovery in the hospital, he would tell anyone who was willing to listen about the magic of travelling. This "mad man", Mr. Yeung, is our very first executive editor.

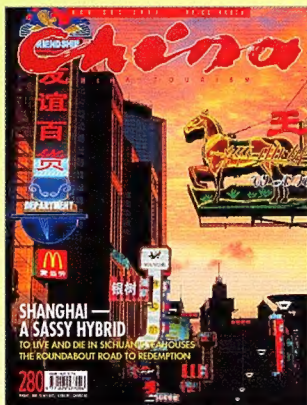


Discoveries: Chinese Medusa?

Who can forget the snake-headed Medusa from the Greek mythology? Her hair of snakes both intrigues and frightens every living thing.

Like Medus, the hair of the ladies and men in this small village northwest of Guizhou invokes endless curiosity. These villagers save up all their ancestors' hair gather them as a huge bun, and hold it up on their head with a half-moon-shaped accessory.





Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Shanghai — A Sassy Hybrid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To Live and Die in Sichuan's Teahouses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Roundabout Road to Redemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through the Ages: The Grand Buddha Temple	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zheng Yunfeng — The Man Who Saved the Three Gorges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tips for the Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Opinions:					

Name: (Mr./Ms./Mrs.) _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: _____

Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Subscription ☐ Newsstand or bookstore
- ☐ Hotel Name: _____ ☐ Others _____

Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business
- ☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others _____

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

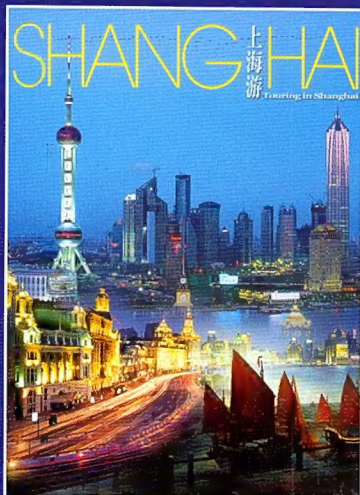
Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

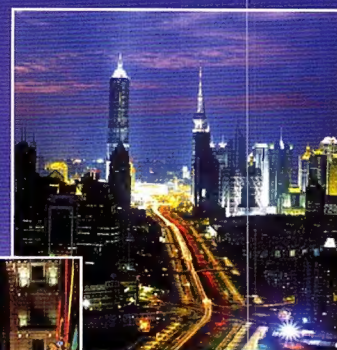
*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

BEST SELLER



Shanghai has evolved at an unprecedented speed for decades into the biggest commercial city in China and one of the great metropolises of the world. Favourably located at the mouth of the Yangtse River, Shanghai has a long history and a rich culture. Commercial tower blocks and traditional buildings exude their individual charms simultaneously in the Pudong District, where hundreds of buildings in different styles, old or new, are collectively known as the Exposition of World Architecture. A kaleidoscope of entertainments and festivals of Old Shanghai attracts scores of entrepreneurs and travellers alike. "Touring in Shanghai" takes you deeper into this vibrant city

through spectacular photography, along with outlines for more than 10 different kinds of tours including a shopping tour, popular tourist sights, cultural excursions, and more. Practical information summarises accommodations, transport and dining options, and tourist maps are also included. "Touring in Shanghai" is the latest, most comprehensive travel pictorial of Shanghai available in Hong Kong.



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